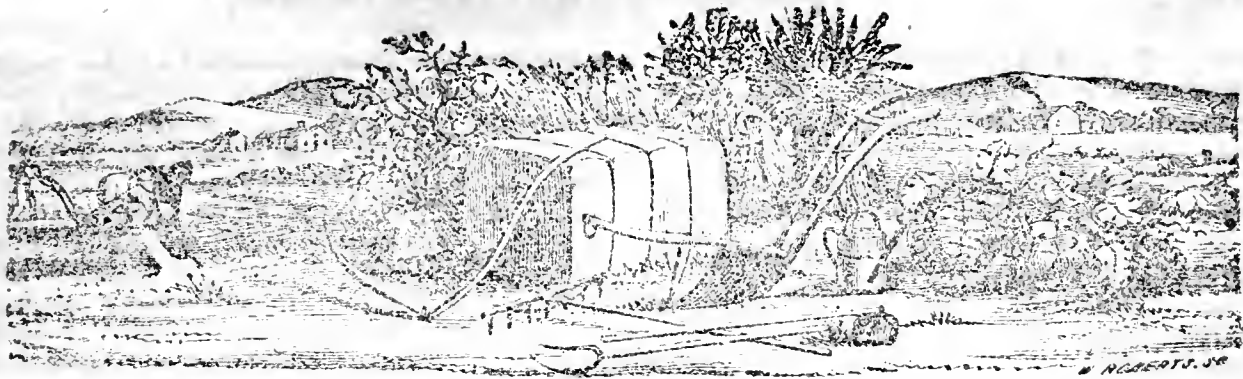


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# THE FARMER AND PLANTER

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. IX.

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**GEORGE SEABORN,**

Editor and Proprietor.

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## Race Horses, Roses and Pretty Women.

The following curious speculations on "Race Horses, Roses and Pretty Women," we take from an old number of the "American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine," vol. 10, 1839. The views of the writer, whether on the whole, correct or not, we do not pretend to decide: his article will, nevertheless, much interest many of our readers:

Some things very strange are nevertheless, true; and the collection and collation of facts, frequently lead to the discovery of new and unexpected relations. Effects apparently unconnected and dissimilar, are sometimes traced to the same cause; and an extensive generalization is obtained which not only simplifies our notions of the operations of nature, but enables us to conduct many processes with greater facility, and to produce more certain and important results. The influence of *climate* on the animal and vegetable kingdoms, has not escaped the notice of philosophers; and many learned treatises have presented to the world

the results of their operations, and the conclusions to which their investigations have led them, in regard to the operations of this cause. Another cause not less powerful, I conjecture, in its effects on men, animals and plants, has been co-operating with climate, since the present condition of the earth has existed, to modify all *living* things, and which certainly has not, in an equal degree, attracted the attention of natural philosophers—the *geological formation* of different portions of the earth. That the effects of this have not received so much attention, is to be attributed in a great degree to the recent date of our knowledge of Geology, and to the direction of the minds of men to other phenomena, the results of geological formations. Mining, paleontological wonders, the formation of coal beds, engineering, and the nature of soils in their relation to production, have occupied the attention of geologists almost as much as their search in the bowels of the earth for the record of the day and date of her birth, and her baptism in the flood. If they could find it, I believe they would understand it as little as they do the Bible, in which there is the only account of these events that can be relied on as certainly true. If their interpretations of the latter are so variant and uncertain, it cannot be expected that their conjectural approximations from the works of God can be nearer the truth, or entitled to more respect. The word of God requires no collateral or circumstantial evidence to demonstrate its truth.

The attention of geologists and natural philosophers has been confined to the *dead and buried*, so far as they have considered the effects of geological causes on matter; all their investigations and all *their* thoughts have been *sublimum*. An humble enquirer after truth and utility, proposes to raise his head *above the surface of the earth*, and to state a few facts in regard to the effects which appear to be produced by geological formations on living things.—This subject seems to him worthy the observation and attentive consideration of rational

men. If he shall succeed in giving that direction to the eyes and minds of any enlightened persons, he will have rendered some service to mankind.

The effects apparently produced on objects to which he had turned his attention, because they had given him pleasure and had occupied his mind, first employed his thoughts. Among these, Horses, Roses and Women were foremost. Long before any suspicion arose as to their cause, remarkable differences were observed in horses raised from different breeds and on different soils. These differences were most obvious in regard to the form of the head, ears, muzzle and legs; and when great differences exist in these, it has been ascertained that others equally as great exist in the bones and tendons and muscular fibre. The hoofs and skin and hair are also different. The shin-bone of a Pennsylvania wagon-horse seventeen hands high, differs as much from that of a Virginia race horse fifteen hands high, as the white oak or hickory of Western Pennsylvania or Ohio, does from the same genus and species of tree in Eastern Virginia or Maryland. The weight, measure, and texture, examined with a microscope, are all different. The one is soft, spongy, light and large; the other, hard, close, heavy and small, with an ivory polish and metallic sound. The muscular fibre in the one is coarser and more lax, although strong, and bears the same relation to that of the other that hemp does to silk or flax. The vascular system differs also. In the coarse horse, the arteries are larger, and the veins smaller and more deeply buried—the tendency to obesity much greater—the fluid and soft parts bearing a much greater proportion to the solids. Bring these horses to Maryland or Virginia—to the Eastern parts, I mean—and their posterity begin to undergo a change in the first generation; in the second it is still greater; and in the tenth, they are no longer the same breed of animals. They will have approximated very nearly to the Virginia horses. Still, the ear, muzzle and eye, will tell tales on them; but these, too, are altered considerably. On the contrary, carry the fine, delicate, hard-hoofed, deer-legged, bright-eyed, arrow-eared, small-muzzled, wide-nostrilled, thin-skinned, superficially-big-veined animals, from lower Virginia, only to the *Valley* in Pennsylvania, Maryland or Virginia, and a change begins to come over them in the first generation, which goes on progressively in each succeeding one, till none but a practised eye, in the tenth or twelfth, can distinguish in them any traces of the original stock. This is produced, it is said, by the difference in climate and food. The climate is damper and cooler, and the food more luxuriant and abundant.—This is true. But what causes these differences, perhaps in the climate in the same latitude nearly, but certainly in soil, and consequently in vegetation? The climate in countries of *calcareous* formation, is notoriously damper, the vegetation constituting the food of animals more abundant, and different in its texture—the wood not so hard and close-grained as in countries of *granitic* and *silicious* formation.—

Animal formation is modified by the vegetable formations of which it is the result; and the vegetable formations are modified by the elements of the soil from which they derive their nourishment. Who will pretend to follow out the links of this chain, or fix a limit to the operation of a cause so powerful and boundless? Not only the forms of animals and their physical systems, their secretions and excretions, but their *spiritual* attributes, are effected by the difference of geological formation from which they derive, through its vegetation, the elements of their organization.

The effect produced on the rose, by difference of geological formation, is very remarkable.—Its delightful aroma is much less, and less concentrated, when it grows on calcareous soils, than on sandy soils; its colors are less vivid, and its texture, when viewed through the microscope, less delicate; it grows larger; the wood has more cellular and less woody and vascular tissue. The effluvia from the bodies and from the excretions of horses are different.—And this is very remarkable in the human race also. From young persons especially, who are attentive to personal neatness, there exhales, from the skin particularly, an odor similar to that of the freshly gathered hickory nut, if they have been born of parents raised in a sandy country, and are born and raised there themselves. Those on calcareous soils have not this odor, but a nitrous, meaty scent. The ankles, hands, and elbows, especially of women, are not so delicately formed; and indeed both the men and women are less symmetrically formed, and more inclined to obesity. The solids are not so firm. Diseases reach their crisis with them much sooner. They are not so long-lived, cannot undergo so much fatigue, and are not so spiritual. They come to maturity earlier, and are much more like the rich and succulent vegetation and meats which constitute their food, and consequently enter into the composition of their physical systems. Is this imaginary? Look at the horses, people, and vegetables. If *sand*, acted upon by a certain degree of heat, and the vital organs of animals and plants, is not the cause of these remarkable differences of form, texture, aroma, &c., in those grown and raised on it, what is? Why is it that not only certain plants, but certain animals, are never found except as exile wanderers from sandy and granitic lands, on calcareous soils? The *grey lizard*, and the *tick*, mark with more precision than the geological surveyor, the boundaries of the sand and granite. We find them lost, or transported to calcareous tracts, where they soon disappear.—Sillex, we know, is taken up and acted upon by the vital organs of plants, giving strength and hardness to them in a very great degree. The cornstalk, the bamboo, and the concretions called *tabasheen*, make this manifest. And why should not the vital organs of animals take up from food or *compose sillex*? Because the chemist can discover none in his system? Pooh! The ablest chemist cannot make the petal of a rose, or even tell how it is done; nor can he extract from the earth or air, with all his art, and combine the elements of its aroma into its

delightful perfume. *Life is the Great Alchemist.* Let us pass to the Old Continent, and to those countries where the horse is found in the greatest perfection. What do we see around us?—The rose-bushes of Arabia loading the air with their perfume, and the grey lizard playing in every tangled brake. Look at the legs and arms of the women, see how their eyes sparkle and flash fire, like brilliant crystals. Go to the country around Damascus, and

"Die of a rose in aromatic pain."

Here the grey lizard pops his impudent head into every tent and bower; and the women, with their finely moulded forms and, hourie eyes, dazzle, delight, and distract us. Shall we pass the Mediterranean into Barbary—see that wanderer of the desert on his fiery steed. What a superb animal! Look at his crest and quivering ear, as the rider brings him down on his haunches with that powerful bit. Good heavens! see how he clears those hedges of roses, and flings from their leaves the *attur ghul* into the air. Do you see that dark-eyed daughter of the desert standing near the kneeling camel? Her form, figure, attitude, are inimitable.—Hush, or she will flee like a fawn into the tent at the sight of a stranger, and the beautiful vision will be lost to us forever. Did you ever see the daughter of a Pennsylvania Dutchman like her? You may, if he and his wife will go and settle a little to the South of Mount Atlas. The thirteenth generation will resemble that girl. *It will get the flint into the form in that time.*

What, conclude we then, is the region of Race Horses, Roses and pretty Women? Dry sandy lands, moderately warm at least. And however chimerical it may be declared to be, experience will prove these speculations to be founded in truth and nature; and wherever the soil is calcareous, and the rose loses its perfume, and the grey lizards play not among the hedges—the horse will become a heavier, coarser animal, of less strength, endurance and fleetness, in proportion to his size; and that without continual admixture from granitic or sandy lands, will lose the characteristics of the finest blood and breeding. It is remarkable though, that *first progeny*, after removal from the *sand* to the *lime*, are not unfrequently more valuable than their immediate ancestors. Without having lost the characteristics of their ancestry, they have more size and roundness of form. Let any person compare the *Western horses* of the eighth and tenth generation, with those brought from the sandy parts of New York (and these by-the-bye are coarser than those from Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina) and Virginia, and he will be convinced that these speculations are founded in truth. In England they raise fine horses; much of the country is sandy; the climate, from its insular situation, is mild; and the greatest care is taken of their high-bred cattle. We know that exotics can be raised in hothouses. The Indiana and Ohio horse has been farther and longer removed from his high-bred ancestors (the horses brought into Kentucky by the earliest settlers from Virginia and North

Carolina) than the horse of Kentucky, which has been constantly receiving infusions of blood from the Virginia stock; and consequently the Indiana and Ohio horse is a big-headed, flopped, thick-legged, gummy-limbed, flat-footed, thick-winded brute; entirely a different animal from the high-mettled racer. It is fortunate for us, however, that our tastes as well as our bodies are affected by the same causes. The Dutch Wagoner will prefer his big horse and his big wife, to an Arabian courser and a Circassian beauty.—"Chacun a son goût."

But the influence of the granitic and silicious formation is not confined to the *body*. There is a wonderful and mysterious connexion between this and the etherial spirit. The organization of the rose is made the laboratory of its perfume; and the organs of animals, worked by life in obedience to the will of the Great Architect of the Universe, may elaborate those etherial impulses which we call by such a variety of names. There is no materialism in this. Who will limit the Creator and Governor of the world, in the subordinate means of accomplishing his purposes? Not I. What is called a *Southern man*, is a *sand-made man baked hard by a hot sun*. Daniel Webster is a sand-made man; but he was never heated through. Clay and Calhoun were baked brown. Patrick Henry and John Randolph were raised to a glowing meat. The men from Maine to Florida, on the Atlantic inclined plane of sand, are bodily and mentally different from those in the same latitude on the calcareous Western lands. A man raised in New England on a sandy soil but in a cool climate, has the sense and wit of a Southerner, but neither his hot heart nor his hot head—a better calculator, a more dispassionate reasoner; but not so eloquent or generous. The Western man, on calcareous lands in the same latitude with the Virginian or Carolinian, is a different man. He is a softer substance, and yields more readily to impulse; his love has more lust in it; his courage is as great, but more ferocious; he will die to accomplish to-day, what he cares nothing about to-morrow; he is not so implacable in his resentment, and is more easily appeased. The fine specimens of Kentuckians and Tennesseans that have attracted the attention of the world, cannot be excelled. They are the progeny, in the *first degree*, of Old Virginians, and North Carolina and South Carolina men, raised on calcareous formations.—Like the horses of the same degree from the Virginia stock, they are if possible finer than their ancestors. They possess all their intelligence, fire and feeling; indeed all their qualities, in an exaggerated degree. But their children are not like them; they have lost some of their fine points both of body and mind. And matters will grow worse. There's too much *lime* and not *sand* enough in the interior of Kentucky, to make fine men and women out of. There's hardly enough for the latter.

To conclude this dry subject, I will merely observe, that there is just the same difference between an Englishman and an Arab; that there is between an English horse and an Arabian; dependent, I believe, as much or more on the



geology of their respective countries than on all other causes combined. CURIOSUS.

From the Grenada (Miss.) Republican.  
**Book Farming.**

BY E. E. FRENCH.

There is a class of men to be met with in almost every community, who cry out against "Book Farming." Go to this class and ask them to subscribe for any of the cheap agricultural papers published in the country, and ten chances to one if they will not laugh you in the face, and call you a silly theorist. Undertake to hold an argument with them to show them the advantages of reading good agricultural works, and self-esteem will rise in a moment to such a prodigious might that they can coolly assert that they know already all that can be known about the art and science of agriculture, and perhaps they may go so far as to claim that they are indeed, wise above what is written. Such men have their hobby and that is "Practical Agriculture." Do they not know how to hold the plow, plie the hoe, swing the scythe, and handle the sickle? Can they not make pork and beef, butter and cheese, as well as the subscribers of your agricultural journals?

Individuals who mount a hobby, so far as I have had the means of judging, are apt to be a little one-sided in their opinions. Once fairly mounted, they set spurs to their chargers, be he of large or small dimensions, and rush forward till they fancy a change would be for their interest and save the life of their jaded nag.

*Practical agriculture* has long been the hobby of tens of thousands. It has been rode so long and so hard that many have been forced to see that the old nag could not always hold out and do the highest justice to the parties who had been for long years spurring her on the top of her speed.

For years, all along the route, one and another have been hopping off, and bidding adieu to the jade with her senseless *exclusiveness*, and have been anxiously casting about for a more correct theory and elevated practice.

But all the riders are not yet unhorsed. Notwithstanding the jade is old, and from long service is woefully galled, and is almost getting fresh stabs from those who have been regenerated and made believers in a sounder and more wholesome doctrine in agriculture, and who would gladly see her supplanted in the course by a nag of the improved blood, her still devoted riders with their feet in the stirrups "clear up to their heels," and both hands clutching the mane, are spurring her on, vainly supposing they are in advance of all the rest of the world and are to remain so.

Practical agriculture, rightly apprehended, is undoubtedly, of much more importance than mere speculative "Book Farming." Men may write books on agriculture that shall be wholly destitute of practical principles, and therefore of no advantage to the practical farmer, or to any one else. There are, however, but few such works allowed to come before the public.

So thoroughly aroused has the scientific

world become upon the subject of improvement in our agriculture, that no work, destitute of real intrinsic worth, can long hope to survive the ridged ordeal to which it must be submitted upon its appearance before the public.

The class of agricultural works that find least favor in the eyes of the so called practical farmers, are those designed to elucidate the scientific principles applicable to agriculture, such as Geology, Mineralogy, Meteorology, Chemistry, Botany, &c.

These sciences are all taught in the higher class of schools, and there is not one of them but is of more practical importance to the farmer than to any other class of men.

The practical farmer has before him every day the subject upon which they treat, and can he be any less a practical farmer, if he understands clearly the principle, upon which he works, and which, adhered to, crown his various manipulations with success?

If the practical farmer, one the most ultra in his denunciations of "Book Farming," were desirous of making his son a practical mathematician of the highest order, would he commence the work by forbidding him the use of books treating of the science of mathematics? Yet the son would be about as likely to become a Euclid in mathematics without the study of mathematical works, as the father would be a good practical agriculturist without the study of works elucidating the principles upon which his business is based, and in accordance with which it must be conducted, to insure permanent success.

Those practical farmers who eschew books and teachings of a well conducted agricultural paper, are not so fool-hardy as to deny the advantages of books and papers in fitting men for the better discharge of the duties pertaining to their other pursuits, and it is only because they take a one-sided and illiberal view of the matter, that they heap denunciation upon "Book Farming."

In many instances this view is taken, because the early advantages of men were not such as to fit them to appreciate the voice and teachings of science somewhat abstruse; and early prejudices take deeper root and yield their most luxuriant growth in minds not sown in youth with better seed.

As I have before intimated, the number of the decryers of "Book Farming" is yearly growing less; and men only need to come to the light to have their short sighted opinions and prejudices made manifest to themselves.

"Book Farming" as it is called, is fast becoming a simple record of successful experiments that have been made by *practical men*, with an equally simple explanation of the *causes* of that success.

Now, this is just what the agriculture of the country needs. Improved systems and that *rationale* of them, nobody can find fault with, and everybody that adopts them, with a clear understanding of their principles, will be benefitted. A clear understanding of principles and a diligent application of them, would be our ideal of a "Book Farmer" and of a

PRACTICAL FARMER.

From the Southern Cultivator.  
Grasses for the South.

*Eds. Southern Cultivator:*—I have, for several years, noticed, with much interest, the many essays that have appeared in your journal, on the various foreign Grasses that have been introduced into the South, and whilst others have been giving us their opinions, I have been making observations myself, to try to arrive at something like a correct conclusion about their merits, or the kinds best adapted to our climate.

The importance of this matter, I contend, should not be treated with indifference; as it not only lies at the foundation of independent living, but the success attending it would also prove a source of revenue to the South. In proof of this, we have only to look at the vast amounts drawn yearly from the proceeds of our cotton, and laid out for work mules, fine saddle and carriage horses, and for pork hogs. All of this expense is, from year to year, kept up for want of grass pastures to rear them ourselves, and which, at the same time, would not interfere in the least, with our cultivated crops. I contend, however, we have been crowned with complete success in finding out one kind at least adapted to our climate, which will make good pastures six months in the year, and that is the much abused Bermuda Grass; still, for its being hard to kill, and, by many, confounded with the Coco and other worthless grasses, some have discarded it. I will here ask the question, Do we want a kind easily killed or crowded out by the native weeds of the country? If so, I could present your readers with a very long catalogue that would make as fine pastures, likely, as the Bermuda; but, unfortunately, they cannot stand our hot summers. Not so with the Bermuda—the hot sun is its element—and its onward march is only impeded by barren rocks, water courses and densely shaded forests. It grows precisely where we want it to grow. To confine it to certain limits we only have to hedge with the Cherokee Rose, the Osage Orange, or border the pasture with shade trees or a post and rail fence, with a wide base plank extending four inches in the ground would keep it in bounds; but we are told it is propagated from the joints, and that they are carried between the hoofs of cattle on our fields intended for cultivation, and that it will pass through the stomach of a cow and then vegetate. Admitting this all to be true (for it comes from a reliable source,) all this could be easily guarded against. And if, by carelessness, small patches of it should make its appearance in our fields, I can testify to the fact, to expose the naked roots to the hot sun one week would kill it so dead that Thompson's third preparation (Or calomel itself.—Dr. F. & P.) would never bring it to life. No speculation about this—I have tried it, Messrs. Editors.

When I wanted to make large crops of cotton, and but little to eat I had equally as bad an opinion of the Crab Grass as some of your correspondents have of the Bermuda. I have even piled it on stumps and logs in the farm to keep it from speeding the plantation. I viewed

it, in fact, equal to one of Pharaoh's curses; but I found that clean culture and running my land every year in corn and cotton was wearing it out, and I commenced pasturing a part of it and clearing every year, until finally I got all of my stock on a good pasture. The scales then fell from my eyes and I could see that God was adding to my store house instead of taking from it. Still, when Crab Grass takes roots from the joints it is very near as hard to kill as the Bermuda; but, admitting that the Crab Grass and the Bermuda will satisfy our every demand for hay and grazing six months in the year, there is yet six months, we are thrown on the corn crib.

Who can fill that vacuum with a suitable grass for winter pastures? This, I contend, after availing ourselves of the information already gained, is all we need in the way of grasses. Should we fail in this, I would suggest as a substitute, to enlarge our Bermuda Grass pastures, and that a portion be reserved for winter grazing, and not suffer any stock to run on it until needed in winter. This would certainly have the desired effect. If the summer growth would stand our winters (and it seems to me it would, as it is a hardy ever-green), the short grass, at least, left by the stock late in the fall retains its foliage green until the spring, and why not the summer growth? This is, however, a mere inquiry to obtain reliable information.

But, sirs, in conclusion, I would ask of what use would this information, that I am seeking to obtain and your journal intended to impart, be to our sons, if we fail to give them the training so correctly laid down by "A Subscriber," in your September number? The modern young gentleman is not trained to business habits. He obtains his clothing, gold watch, horse, buggy, and subsistence from his father's purse, and, of course, has no use for those fine grass pastures to rear fine horses, cows, sheep and hogs upon; and if they did, our delicate daughters, so correctly portrayed by "Shirley," also in your September number, could never condescend to leave the parlor and the soft notes of the piano for the kitchen, to attend to serving up a fat piece of veal, lamb or pig, produced from those fine pastures we have been talking about—it is now considered by modern young ladies as being too vulgar for the present age.

Well, Messrs. Editors, I admit we are living in an enlightened age and a fast one also; "but the handwriting is upon the wall," and it don't take a Daniel to interpret it—a change has to take place in the education of our children, or the fortunes made by the industry and frugality of the fathers will pass into the hands of those who know how to appreciate those blessings. Finding myself wandering from my subject, I will come to a close, after giving the information you wish about the crops in this section.

On the West side of the Tombigby River, on the prairie lands, cotton will not make more than from one-half to two-thirds of a crop, caused principally from the boll worm; on the East side the land is sandy and will likely

make from two-thirds to a full crop. Corn and wheat will be about an average yield; and oats ruined every where by rust, except a few fields saved early in the fall.

Your obedient servant,  
E. JINKINS.

Horse Pen, Miss., Sept., 1858.

From the Conservatist.

### Report on Corn,

*Read before the Newberry Agricultural Society.*

*Corn, Varieties, Uses, Culture, Means of Producing the Largest Crops, Harvesting, &c.*

Every one who is conversant with farming, is aware of the great difference in the capacity of the soil for growing good crops of corn. A deep, rich, moist soil is best adapted for corn. The corn crop is of vast importance; and no farmer can get along well without it, as we mainly depend upon it for bread; and it is generally considered the most wholesome we use; and on the corn crop we mainly depend for a supply for our stock. In fact, no farmer can feel truly independent without a good supply. Full cribs and fat stock are what the farmer delights to look at. And for us to feel truly our dependence for a supply of this, one of our greatest temporal blessings, we have only to refer back to 1846, then was witnessed the effects of a short crop; and poor stock was the result, a sight that no person likes to look at. In fact, if we wish to be a truly prosperous people, we must raise plenty of corn, and by that means we may be able to raise a plenty of horses, mules and hogs, and not be dependent on Kentucky for a supply. And as we desire the prosperity of our District and State, we say to one and all, raise your own stock, which can be done in Newberry; for the stock exhibited on the Fair ground at the annual exhibition, will amply prove it; and then, and not till then, can it be said of us that we are a truly independent and prosperous people.

### VARIETY.

Of the different varieties of corn, we prefer the large white variety, a crop between the flint and gourds-seed; it makes a beautiful bread, and is not so hard for stock as the flint variety, and is much firmer than the gourds-seed. Any of the different varieties may be greatly improved with proper attention. Every farmer should gather his seed from the field at gathering time, by going over and selecting from the best spots, the stalks that have two or more ears, and put it away carefully with the shuck on till planting time. It should then be shucked, and the ears with the large grains and smallest cobs selected, and both ends shelled off and the centre taken.

### USES.

We have but little to say about the uses, as it is an easy matter to use it after it is made. — We would recommend the practice of grinding and cooking it for stock, instead of the old plan of feeding it whole, as it is said to be a saving of at least one-third.

### CULTURE, THE MEANS OF PRODUCING THE LARGEST CROP, HARVESTING, &c.

Upon the preparation of the soil mainly depend our success; for we cannot reasonably expect a large yield without a thorough preparation. If the land to be planted in corn is stubble, it should be turned over in the fall, in the latter part of October, or the first of November, with a two-horse turning plow, from four to six inches deep, followed in the same furrow by one of Broil's two-horse subsoils, as deep as two mules can draw it, and remain till planting time; and no stock should be permitted to run on it. But if after cotton, which plan we prefer, because it is very difficult to get a stand on stubble, on account of the bud worm, and corn grows off much better after cotton. — The cotton stalks should be plowed up in January, by running two or three times in the rows with a long scooter plow, and let it stand till just before planting time. It should then be plowed deep and close with a subsoil scooter plow, and if the land is broken or hilly, and has not been ditched, it should be done, for every farmer try to save his land, and this is one important step towards it; this being completed, the manure or the cotton seed should be hauled on the land, and if the land is high and dry and the season suits, the planting should commence about the tenth of March. The same process should be followed on stubble, as on cotton land. If the land is level the rows can be run straight, but if broken and ditched, the rows should be laid off by the ditches, commencing at the upper ditch and filling out to the lower ditch; the rows should be five feet wide, laid off with a gauge, which can be done very easily by a very simple arrangement. It is the only plan to get the rows all of a width. Where the rows are horizontal, we recommend the practice of drilling, as it is the only plan that can be followed on broken land, and it has the advantage in cultivation. Part of the roots are not cut, and it will yield more to the land than hilled corn; the rows should be laid off with a shovel plow, followed by a two-horse subsoil plow as deep as it can be drawn, the seed should then be dropped in the bottom of the furrow, about twenty-eight inches apart, or an ordinary step on ordinary land. The better the land the closer it should be, and from three to five grains should be dropped in a place. It is better to thin out than to replant, which rarely ever pays. The dropping should be done by a careful hand. The cotton seed or manure should be put in the bottom of the furrow, a handful close to the corn on both sides, it should then be covered by throwing two light scooter furrows on it, making a nice sharp ridge. As soon as it commences coming up the ridge should be boarded as hurrowed off, as soon as it is well up it should be replanted, and run round with a subsoil, and followed by a scooter plow, making four furrows to the row; the hoes should then follow and chop it to a stand, leaving one stalk in a place, and put a little dirt to it; it will then stand from three to four weeks; it should then be run round with a wing scooter, the wing to the corn.



lapping the furrow nicely; the hoes should be dropped in the furrow half way between the hills of corn, the rows should then be plowed out with the shovel plow, with a wing on next the corn, which will lap the furrow out smooth and nice; it will then stand from two to three weeks; it should then be plowed with the sweep plow; the hoes should then follow and chop out the weeds and grass. It is then laid by, which should be done when the forward stalks commence showing the tassel. The time to commence saving fodder is when the corn commences getting hard, it is better to loose some fodder than injure the corn. The fodder when pulled should not remain more than one day exposed to the sun; it should then be gathered together and piled, and remain until it goes through a sweat; it should then be spread, and when dry should be housed. The proper time for gathering corn is as soon as the first killing frost comes; it should then be gathered and housed dry. That intended for bread, or to keep for a length of time, should be put up in the shuck; it will keep for several years if this plan is followed.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN R. SPEARMAN, Ch'mn.

From the Saniter Watchman.

#### Conversation on Agricultural Chemistry.

BY J. S. RICHARDSON, SEN.

(CONCLUDED.)

B. As regards the use of ashes as manure, many planters object to employing it as such, on account of its expensiveness, when the value of the wood is considered, together with the labor of collecting and burning it.

C. It has come under my observation, however, that around nearly every field, there are flourishing oaks and other trees growing near the enclosure, which if cut down and burnt, (don't mean such as serve for shade trees to the traveller,) would not only cease to levy an annual contribution upon the growing crop, but, by the use of their ashes as manure, make some amends for the injury they have done.

A. There can be no doubt of the economy of such a disposition of them. It may be true, that the worst use to which a man can be put, is *hanging* him; but, the destruction of such trees is clear gain. It is also frequently good economy, to get rid of the large trees, in order to make room for the growth of the smaller ones, especially if the former be of the least valuable kind. In all woodland, there is to be found a considerable quantity of brush, or branches of trees blown off by winds, or which have decayed and fallen, or been left in gathering fuel; this contains a large quantity of ashes, owing to the large proportion of *bark* of which it consists, which yields four or five times as much ashes as the same quantity of wood taken from the body of the tree.

B. I think you stated that the leaves also contained a large proportion of ash or mineral elements.

A. Yes; they yield pound for pound, double the quantity of ash yielded by bark.

C. You have given several examples of partial or imperfect manures; are not those in common use of a more perfect character?

A. Stable manure, as well as the manure of cattle, if kept under shelter, are both perfect manures; that is, they both contain all the mineral ingredients required by plants, as well as ammonia and carbonic-acid.

B. The former of which, (ammonia) is, I think, obtained exclusively from the atmosphere, unless artificially provided in manure; the latter is derived as well as from the soil as the atmosphere.

A. Yes; cattle-pen manure, however, is ordinarily exposed to the weather, in consequence of which, all its ammonia, which is very volatile, is lost by evaporation, while much of its mineral ingredients is lost by leaching. We have spoken with some particularity of the properties of several of the mineral constituents of plants—i. e.—potash, soda, lime, &c.; magnesia is another of these elements. Though a constituent of all plants, some soils are rendered completely barren by too large a quantity of it. Silica (sand) is another. It is a necessary ingredient of all plants.

B. I have heard it said that plants *lodge* or fall down, for the want of silica.

A. It is frequently the case with wheat—not because there is too little silica in the soil—for there is a great abundance of it in all soils—but because there is too little of it that is available to the plants, in consequence of the want of some alkali to combine with it and render it soluble, so that the plant can take it up. It is silica in combination with an alkali (as potash or soda) which constitutes the hard shining surface of the stems of this and other grain bearing plants, and which imparts to them their firmness and strength.

C. When plants lodge, then, the introduction of an alkali into the soil is the proper remedy.

A. Certainly.

B. And that would, I suppose, be effected by the application of common ashes, as perfectly as any other way as it contains both potash and soda.

A. And as cheaply. Lime, which though not a true alkali, is an alkaline earth, and is classed among the alkalies in agriculture, would answer the same purpose. Phosphorus is another mineral element of plants and therefore an element of their food. It exists in the plant in the form of phosphoric acid—which is a compound of phosphorus and oxygen—and in this form it is taken up by the plants. This compound (carbonic-acid) unites with any of the alkalies, which in Agricultural Chemistry are four in number, potash, soda, lime and magnesia. Its most important agricultural compound is with lime, with which it forms *phosphate of lime*—a valuable ingredient of manure.

C. I have heard the super-phosphate of lime very highly extolled as a manure—and have

seen good effects produced by the application of it to the soil.

A. It is more valuable than the *phosphate* simply because, by the addition of more phosphoric acid, it is rendered more soluble, and therefore more available; the phosphate itself being but slowly soluble, and because it supplies more phosphoric acid, which forms one-third the ash of corn, wheat, rye and oats. (the whole plant ;) in other words, one-third of the mineral food of those plants.

Sulphur is another of the mineral constituents of plants. This too exists in the plant only in combination with oxygen, with which it forms sulphuric acid—and with which plants usually obtain it from the soil in further combination with some of the alkalies—as *sulphate of lime*, sulphate of soda, &c., also in combination with ammonia, forming sulphate of ammonia.

B. Is it ever employed alone as manure?

A. Yes, in a very dilute form it is sometimes thrown upon the soil itself, but more frequently upon the compost heap, where it answers the important purpose of converting the volatile ammonia into a sulphate of ammonia, and thus preventing its loss, the latter being a fixed salt.

Another ingredient of the ash of plants is chloride.

B. That is to say, another of the mineral constituents of plants; as the ash of a plant consists only of such constituents.

A. You are perfectly right. This substance is found in nature combined with sodium, forming chloride of sodium (common salt). It is artificially combined with lime, forming chloride of lime. Oxide of iron and oxide of manganese are the remaining constituents of the ashes of plants.

B. I have heard of soil being poisoned with iron.

A. The protoxide of iron has that effect; while the peroxide which contains more oxygen, adds to the fertility of the soil. Like carbon, it absorbs and retains ammonia for the use of plants. Manganese is found in such small quantities in the ashes of plants, that it is scarcely considered an important ingredient of manure. We have now spoken of all the mineral or inorganic constituents of plants, which are also the constituents of their ashes, and form that part of their food which is derived exclusively from the soil, you probably recollect our having stated that there are four others, called the organic constituents of plants.

C. They are the carbon, which is a solid substance, and three gases, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen.

B. The carbon of plants, if I am not forgetful, is obtained in part from the atmosphere, through their leaves in the form of carbonic-acid gas, and in part from the soil, in the form of carbonic-acid in combination with water, their oxygen and hydrogen from the atmosphere through their roots partly in the form of water, which is a compound of the two, and nitrogen from the atmosphere, through their roots, in the form of ammonia.

A. Your memory is not the least at fault; carbon is a very large constituent of plants; it is obtained to a considerable extent from the soil, by the decomposition of vegetable matter, in the form of carbonic-acid; yet pure carbon itself or charcoal, is of no importance as food, as it undergoes no decomposition, and suffers no diminution from year to year. It nevertheless acts an important part in manure. It is a fine absorbent and definer of gases arising from the decomposition of animal or vegetable substances in the soil, and also of ammonia brought down from the atmosphere in rain water. It also absorbs the soluble mineral portions of manure and retains them for the plant, which might otherwise be leached down too low to be reached by their roots. It makes the soil warmer, by darkening it, as all dark substances absorb and retain heat better than those of a light color. We have already given some account of the three other *inorganic* constituents of plants. And now, gentlemen, I trust the subject has become sufficiently interesting to induce you to read the little that it is requisite to read in order that you may become pretty good Agricultural Chemists. I refer you, therefore to "Waring's Elements of Agriculture," a work in which the whole subject is presented to view in a very pleasing manner, and also, to Mr. Dana's deservedly popular "Prize Essay on Manures," which gives nearly all the instruction on the subject, that is important; also, to J. Liebig's "Agricultural Chemistry," which, though less likely to interest readers in general, is a work of great interest to all lovers of science.

A PERFECT PLAN TO WATER TREES.—Dig a hole two feet deep and three feet in diameter, in the centre of this hole, bore as for water; fill up the tube with sand; then plant a tree in that hole, and forever after, you have, by capillary power, a fountain ever flowing to the roots of that tree. This will be natural to the tree, and it will only flow as the tree needs it, and it will also be perceived that the roots of the tree (the tree will form special tap-roots) will go down this tube, and feed upon the living water below. This same plan may be adopted through an entire orchard.—*California Farmer*.

HARMLESS AND SURE CURE FOR WARTS.—Take two or three cents worth of sal ammoniac, dissolve it in a gill of soft water, and wet the warts frequently with the solution, when they will disappear in the course of a week or two. I have frequently tried this cure for warts and it has never failed.

In reference to the above, the Scientific American—good authority on such subject—remarks:

We are inclined to believe in the efficacy of correspondent's cure for common warts, because we know alkaline solutions softens them, and gradually eats them away, as it were.—We have removed some of these unpleasant skin excrescences with a weak solution of potash applied in the same manner as the sal ammoniac.

## Cotton Seed.

We find among our scraps, laid aside for future attention, one from a Cincinnati paper, on the subject of cotton seed oil, which is represented as a very valuable illuminating and lubricating substance. We have no doubt of this, and there is only one consideration in the way of the manufacture of cotton seed oil becoming a lucrative business—that is, the value of the raw material. The experiment of manufacturing cotton seed oil was tried, on a pretty liberal scale, more than twenty years ago, near Natchez, but it came to nothing; no doubt from the difficulty of procuring the seed at a suitable price.

Northern men who have a notion of embarking in this business, would do well to come South and look about them before they risk their capital. Should they make the trip, they will discover first, that cotton seed is with us no inconsiderable succedaneum to that boasted hay crop of the North, and jolly fat our cattle get around the cotton seed pile in the winter. In the spring it is applied directly and indirectly as manure, and we have seen gardens in the black lands absolutely white with the seed lying on the surface after as much had been plowed in as the earth would hold. This great amount of vegetable matter worked into the substance of the limy soil prevented it from baking and becoming too hard to work or to permit the transpiration of the moisture below. At other times we have seen corn cut down by a late spring frost in one field, but preserved in the adjoining one by the warmth developed from the fermentation of the cottonseed which had been liberally applied.

We have now in our mind's eye a plantation, some two hundred miles away, on which the thirty-second crop, unless we miss the count by a year too much or a year too little, is now growing, and the oldest cleared portion is the best, although it lies less favorably than some other parts. The reason is that being nearest to the gin house it gets rather more than its share of the cotton seed manure.

Indirectly too, cotton seed is extensively applied as manure, not only through the medium of the cattle fed upon it, but from the way in which the cotton crop is planted. We do not dole out the seeds three or four in a place, as if each were a grain of bread corn, but throw them in liberally, till a ridge of seeds extends from one end of the field to the other. This furrow is covered and in due course of time is alive with young cotton plants, which are chopped out until not one in a hundred remains, nor does one seed in a dozen get a chance to germinate; they are smothered, and so rot in the ground. Thus the seed of one crop manures the next one.

No, indeed; Southern planters are charged with being thriftless by those who do not know the difference between Southern and Northern agriculture; but you will not catch them selling their cow feed and manure to Northern manufacturers to make oil. And here is one explanation of the agricultural prosperity of the South. It is the process of ripening the

seed which chiefly exhausts the soil, and the country which exports breadstuffs, or meat, must become impoverished unless recourse be had to manures imported or dug from the beds of mud and gypsum with which Providence has supplied it. Our corn is consumed among ourselves; our great export is the light carbonaceous substance of the downy cotton, derived mostly from the atmosphere, while the phosphatic and nitrogenous ingredients of the seed are returned to the soil. Careless husbandry will wear out any soil, but land can endure more mud or cotton culture than under any other that can be named.—*Mobile Mercury*, 22d.

## Why Use Cut Feed?

An intelligent farmer asks for the philosophy of cutting hay. He can understand that it is useful to cut corn stalks and coarse fodder, because the cattle will eat them better. But when the cattle will eat good English hay perfectly clean, why should it be passed through the hay cutter?

Our friend evidently supposes that the stomach does its work upon everything that passes into it, with equal facility, and without any tax upon the rest of the system. This is manifestly an error. All food has to be ground up before it can be assimilated and pass into the circulation of the animal. If food is not artificially prepared by cutting, grinding, or steaming, the animal has to prepare it himself so far as he is able. Certain kinds of food will pass through the system, imparting to it only a part of their nutriment, because the teeth of the animal have not perfectly masticated it. Whole kernels of corn or of oats are often seen in the faces of an old horse.

The more perfectly food can be prepared, the more completely will the system appropriate its nutriment. If the whole labor of grinding up the food is thrown upon the animal, it is a serious tax upon the vital energy, which every good farmer wants for other purposes. In the case of the horse and ox, you want the strength applied to locomotion and draught.

Whatever strength is applied to grinding food, is so much taken away from their capacity for labor. If three or four hours of strong muscular labor are spent in working up hay and straw into a pulp, there is a great loss of strength and of time.

In the case of fattening animals, you want the aliment to go to the formation of fat and flesh. This process goes on successfully, just as the animal is kept quiet and comfortable. No useless labor should be expended in the grinding up of food. The straw-cutter, working up the hay into fragments of half an inch in length, or less, performs a good part of the working of the jaws, and makes the feeding of the animal still a light matter. If the hay could be ground up into a fine meal, it would be still better; as it would make the work of the animal still lighter, and would more completely yield up its nutriment. If it could be steamed it would be best of all, as it would then be wholly appropriated.

We have no doubt that it pays quite as well to pass hay through the machine, as the coarsest fodder. A root-cutter is also an indispensable adjunct to the barn, and the more perfectly it communicates the roots the better.

The farmer who has ever experimented with these machines, and marked the results of feeding with hay and roots prepared in this way, can have no doubt of their utility. Laziness, we apprehend, has quite as much to do with these machines as ignorance. It is work to turn the crank to cut up hay enough to feed twenty head of cattle; and in prospect of spending the elbow grease, it is very convenient to believe that it will not pay. Sloth, however, is a poor counsellor in this case, as in all others. We should as soon think of feeding them with uncut straw. A warm stable and a straw-cutter are both good investments.

[Goward's Register.]

#### Propagation of Fish.

The President of the American Institute, New York, lately read a lengthy paper on the subject of artificial propagation of fish. In answer to a question, he said:—The proposition that I made last year to the Legislature was that if a law was passed to protect seed I would stock the waters of the State with salmon.

He also stated:—I have eight ponds upon my farm, stocked with forty-five kinds of fish, among which I have one pond of trout. They grow more rapidly in a pond where well-fed than in streams. I have also some in a cask, and they are so tame that they will come to me at the sound of a bell, and eat from my hand. There is no reason why fish cannot be made profitable. My gold-fish are very gentle and flourishing, but are not esteemed for food.—They are, however, very ornamental.

I have one pond devoted to pike, which are extremely voracious, but have become quite docile. They pair about the first of April, and deposit their eggs, and never look after them again until their eggs are hatched, when the old pike devour their own offspring. Their favorite food is frogs. I think a small fish-pond would produce a greater profit than a ten acre field well cultivated. The yellow perch is a good fish, and does well in my ponds. Sometimes perch die from bursting their bladders in shallow water in warm weather.

The striped bass I have also succeed in growing in fresh water to advantage, notwithstanding it is a sea fish. The common shad is the most interesting of all my fish. They spawn about 45,000 eggs each, and would multiply to a greater extent if not destroyed. I have succeeded in growing shad in fresh water, and have had them grow five or six pounds in a year. A shad eats by suction, and never bites at a hook.

I have also a variety of fish from the great lakes, all of which are in a flourishing condition. I deposited in one pond 3,000 eels, and have succeeded in raising them by feeding them with salt, as they are found naturally only in situations where they have access to the ocean. I am satisfied that the eel is oviparous, not-

withstanding the contrary opinion has often been advanced.

The sense of smell in fish is generally strong; and the sense of hearing is also well developed. The sight is also very keen in some species, though they cannot see in turbid water. The sucker is acutely sensible to touch. Their taste is least delicate of any of the senses, since some of them devour food indiscriminately, without regard to quality.—Fish for food are always in the finest condition when full of eggs.

After spawning, they deteriorate very rapidly. Fish food is proved to be nutritious and wholesome by the healthy condition of fisherman's families. I have not been able to domesticate cod-fish in fresh water ponds. I intend, however, to continue experiments. It is an interesting fact that the Common School Fund of Massachusetts owes its origin to cod-fishery. I expect to be able to domesticate the tench, the physician fish of the race, its slime serving to heal the wounds in other species.—There is no difficulty in transporting fish ova from one part of the country to another, nor in hatching the young fish.—*Transactions of the American Institute.*

To the foregoing we would add the following from the *Athenæum*.

The experiment made by the Emperor of complete success. Trout twelve months old are eight inches long, and weigh from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ounces. Their value in the Paris market would be from 20 to 26 cents. The trout 33 months old are from 10 to 20 inches long, and weigh from 24 to 41 ounces, and would sell from 60 cents to \$1.20. It is farther stated that the waters at St. Cloud were never before inhabited by any species of *salmynni*. The trout are extremely numerous, and promise to yield highly productive returns, in a commercial point of view. The principal object of the Emperor is to ascertain whether the production of the fish by artificial means is more profitable than the cultivation of the land, taking the same superficial area in both cases.

The above article, though brief is interesting, and should have the effect to stir up those who have the appliances, to provide ponds and fill them with choice fish. There are hundreds of farms, now within our knowledge, possessing every facility for having large ponds supplied with fresh running water. Millions of fish could be propagated in them, affording at all seasons of the year not only a full provision for the family, but for a dozen families, or the surplus could be carried to market with the other products of the farm.

The reference to shad, and its length of life, is undoubtedly correct. We do not believe that the shad ever makes its appearance in our rivers a second time. In other words, it either dies immediately after spawning, or after it reaches the "great deep" on its return. A gentleman at Reading, in this State, with whom we were conversing on the subject a few days ago, informed us that when shad were formerly taken in the Schuylkill at that point (before the damming of the river,) he every season saw thousands of shad which had died immediately



after spawning. Those surviving for the time looked ghastly and were just able to move.—He has no doubt of the fact, that the fish never returns but once, matures in a single year, and then disappears. The young shad, when they leave us at the end of the season, frequently attain the length of six inches, though generally about three or four, which proves that they grow rapidly.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

#### The Hog Cholera—A Other Remedy.

One of our most esteemed subscribers, Rezin H. Worthington, Esq., a well known and extensive agriculturist, residing near Randallstown county, called at our office a few days since, and mentioned, that he had lost 186 hogs by the "Cholera," and, that several of his neighbors had met with severe losses in the same way. He tried various remedies but without success, until he had resource to *Asafetida*. This he gave to his hogs by tying up a pound of the drug in a thin piece of muslin, and placing it in a tube holding two barrels or about sixty gallons of slop or swill, which was then fed to the animals. At the end of two weeks, another bag of the same amount of *asafetida* should be placed in the tub. The disease, he alleges, is entirely prevented by this treatment. Mr. Worthington contends that the disease is at first a pneumonia, that when treated in its earliest stage it is curable; but when it has reached what he terms the typhoid state, and especially after the diarrhoea has supervened, it is almost always fatal. The use of *asafetida* he considers a perfect specific.

[*American Farmer.*]

#### How to Save Fruit.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have recently learned from an experienced orchadist of South Carolina, that any fruit tree may be made to bloom sufficiently late in the season to preserve its fruits from the frosts, and consequently present a heavy crop, by the following treatment:

In the middle of the winter, when the ground is most severely frozen, place a large pile of wheat straw or oak leaves around the roots, letting it extend some distance in every direction, so as to cover the extended roots that approach the surface of the earth. Cover this pile with planks or boards so that no rain can fall on the pile. Let this cover remain until all danger from frost has passed, then remove the cover and the straw, and look for a splendid crop to follow soon.

The rationale is simply this: The frozen earth will not thaw till very late in the spring, if the pile remain. And while the earth is frozen, the tree cannot bloom. But when all danger is past, you can remove the covering, and the tree will bloom forth speedily. Try it, friends.

R. L. A.

Burke County, N. C., 1858.

We have tried the application of leaves to the roots of trees as directed, and know that it greatly retards the rising of the sap. The addition of the boards and planks must cause a long

or retention of cold to the earth and roots, and therefore still further militates the buds and blossoms on the tree. We believe the theory a good one for the purpose designed; the fear being that in a very late spring, the frost so long retained around the roots of the trees may possibly kill them.—Eds. N. C. PLANTER.

[*Exchange.*]

For the Farmer and Planter.

To the Pendleton Farmers' Society—I hereby offer the following result, as "a successful experiment with any fertilizer," for which our Society offers a premium. I proceed to state the result of the said experiment, (now verified by three years experience). I seeded down, last October, upon old and somewhat worn land, a little upwards of 40 acres (say about 43 acres) in wheat—the common Red Wheat of "Alabama," as it is called, putting about 1½ bushels to the acre. Before sowing my wheat, and after, as usual, soaking the seed in a solution of bluestone. I rolled the seed, when wet, with a mixture of one-third Peruvian Guano, and two-thirds powdered charcoal, (which I obtained from the blacksmith shop). Gypsum, (when I had it on hand,) I also used in the proportion above, mixed with the Guano; but last year I used the charcoal dust. The wheat thus rolled in the above compound, I sowed, and plowed in, and brushed in the usual way. Had I a good roller, I would have also used it, but I had none. My wheat came up very quickly, and grew off finely. If I found it growing too fast, I turned my calves and sheep upon it.—The past year has been an unfavorable one for wheat generally. Upon harvesting my wheat crops, it yielded (after threshing and cleaning) 340 bushels of pretty good wheat—better and sounder than any I have seen in the neighborhood. Had I stopped to have cleaned up and fanned all that I could, I think the crop would have turned out very nearly four hundred bushels, as I fed away several barrels of heads and wheat, not caring to stop to clean it up. None of my neighbors who generally seeded down about the same quantity of wheat that I did, realized more than about one-fourth to one-third as much as I made by the foregoing simple experiment, and my wheat was much sounder and freer from rust than any I have seen.

The general results from the above experiments, are as follows:

1st. The cost of the Guano used, was from \$6 to \$8, (certainly not over \$10, all expenses included).



2d. By the yield obtained, (in a remarkably bad year for wheat) I think I nearly *quadrupled* what (judging from the results of my neighbors' crops, and the quality of *their* land) I otherwise would have obtained by not rolling the seed as above stated.

3d. By putting fully one-third more seed than is usually put to the acre, my wheat (if some of it was "*winter killed*" by the heavy freeze) stood quite thickly upon the land.

4th and lastly, (and this is the *great secret* of the experiment). My wheat crop almost entirely escaped the blighting effects of the *rust*, from which every one else suffered more or less. My wheat being forced forward at the start, and getting, at an early period, well and *deeply rooted* in the ground, not only escaped the freezes of the winter, but was ripe and ready to be cut *from a week or ten days sooner* than that of any one in my neighborhood, and I consequently *escaped the rust*.

In conclusion, I submit, that, in proportion to the *outlay*, the result has been a "*most successful experiment*."

Respectfully submitted by

W. A. HAYNE.

"Rockall Farm," near Pendleton.

For the Farmer and Planter

Product of one Potatoe.

Maj. SEABORN—*Dear Sir*:—Not knowing exactly what to go at this morning for the best, in consequence of the incessant rains that have fallen during the entire week, so far, from Monday morning until this (Friday) morning, I have concluded, in lieu of something better to write, to send you a statement of the yield of a single potatoe; together with the time of planting, mode of cultivation, &c. It was late in the season, the 15th of April, when I planted the potatoe alluded to. Being a different kind of potatoe to any that I had seen, I concluded to plant it in a piece of a row to itself, on one side of my potatoe patch, in order to see what it would make. I cut the potatoe up into pieces, putting but one eye at a place; previously drilling a little manure in the row, filling it with wheat straw, and then covering with a hoe. When I dug my potatoes, I found that my new potatoe had yielded *upwards of fifty* potatoes; and in all probability, the increase would have been much more, had there not been a large cedar tree growing in the middle of the row, and also fruit trees standing all around in every direction, and the seasons not have been so unfavorable.

I will now give you my mode of planting, cultivation, &c. I generally plant my Irish potatoes about the 15th or 20 of February. In the first place, I break up my ground once or twice with a gopher, as deep and closely as possible. I then run off my rows about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 feet apart, running two furrows in one, after which I put in some manure, if needful, then drop my potatoes, whole, one in a place, some 15 or 18 inches apart. After this, I fill up the rows with wheat straw, or broom straw, I believe, does just as well, and then cover with the plow, throwing on two furrows and bursting out the middles—finishing off the beds with the hoe. The straw acts as a manure, and also makes a soft bed in the row for the young potatoes to form in. The first working, I scrape down the potatoes nicely with the hoe, and then plow them out, using the plow mostly afterwards, until the last working, when I hill or bed up with the hoe.

T. F. A.

Calhoun, Oct. 29th. 1858.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
Old Fairfield Forever.

MR. EDITOR:—Our District Agricultural Fair has just closed, and was the best hit of the season. Although the first day it rained, and the second day it poured, we had a most beautiful Fair. A catalogue of articles of every class and description, would be as long as my *leg*, much less my *arm*. About twenty brood mares, with as many superior colts; fillies, from two to three, and three to four, years old; stallions, from one to five years old, harness and draft horses; saddle horses; six or seven pens of swine; several pens of sheep; cattle of every variety, from a suckling calf to a five year old bull; corn from the Peabody, with its seven and ten ears to the stalk, or 150 ears to the bushel, from Mammoth corn measuring a bushel from 60 ears; yams, Spanish and African potatoes; wheat, flour, peas, lard, soaps, splendid turnips, and every thing else that could be desired, were shown in luxuriant abundance. And in addition to all this, the ladies showed such elegant specimens of their handiwork, paintings, embroidery, wax work, raised and patch work quilts, wines, jellies, preserves, brandied fruits, fresh peaches, apples and pears, bread, cakes, and everything that a good house-keeper ever wanted. And besides all this, too, our mechanics and merchants decorated our large Hall with their articles, which added very much to the looks, as well as to the real worth of the display.

Three years ago, this Fair was but a conception—to-day it is a wealthy Society, with over one hundred life-members. If a stranger had or did attend this Fair, he was convinced that, in Fairfield we have some excellent farmers, some fine stock, as good, if not better, house-keepers, prettier women, and the loveliest wives in the Southern country.

Long life and robust health to the "Fairfield Agricultural and Mechanical Association," says your obedient friend,

PERKINS, JR.

For the Farmer and Planter.

#### Southern Seedling Winter Apples.

MAJ. SEABORN—*Dear Sir:*—I am due you an explanation why I have not settled with you, my subscription for your valuable agricultural journal—it is this:

In the year 1846, after having tried to cultivate the best varieties of Northern winter apples, and utterly failing to succeed, I commenced the re-construction of my orchard by selecting a choice variety of Southern seedling winter apples, and with these, giving my trees new tops. How well I have succeeded, is a fact at this time well known to Pomologists throughout the United States, and that my collection cannot be excelled by any and all the varieties of Northern fruit, is also equally well known. Until recently I have made no attempt at a Nursery or raising trees to sell; but as I have now taken the initiatory steps towards that enterprise, I have concluded that the best way of advising the public of the fact, would be through your journal. My intention was to have, this autumn, sent you a liberal supply of all my varieties, and had your acknowledgment and opinion of each. In this, however, I have been disappointed by the frost of the 25th of last April, which has, in mountain parlance, knocked all my pleasant visions in regard to fruit, into the middle of next year.

Col. W. Sloan, your neighbor, was at my orchard three years ago, and tested a few varieties of my new seedlings, and can vouch me no *humbug*. I also make a first class article of cider of the Hughes Va. Crab, and apple butter, in quality and quantity, if you could be at my orchard, would cause you to fancy yourself in Yankcedom. Twelve months is a long time to wait—very.

The Old North State has rendered herself conspicuous for starving out all her editors who have made an effort to publish an agricultural journal, and it is to be feared that the N. C.

Planter will soon go the way of all those that have preceded it. It is a clever journal, and deserves a better fate. I wrote an article, which was published in that paper some time after the severe frost of last April, treating of a Frostothermal line which skirts our valley, the frost belt reaching to about 300 feet, perpendicular height, on our mountain sides, and then being overlain by a warm strata that rested upon it, being dry and free from frost, and all fruit and vegetation that fell within its range, being unharmed. This is a fact very important to be known by the dwellers of our mountain valleys, and there are several individuals who have availed themselves of the suggestion, and purchased localities for orchards above the frost range.

Respectfully, &c.,

SILAS McDOWELL.

Franklin, Macon Co., N. C., Nov. 3, 1858.

#### Hogs vs. Dogs.

"What a dog lives upon will keep a hog." If anybody doubts the truth of the saying, let him kill his useless dog, and put a pig in the pen and give it the dog's allowance. He will find in a few months that he has a fine, fat porker, fit to be eaten, a use the dog could not be possibly applied to by any christian man.—There are too many; if they had all been killed a year ago, there might be 200 lbs. of good, fat pork in the country to balance against every dog so set aside, which would be no inconsiderable item in the present scarcity of supplies. Dogs are a nuisance, and should be taxed. While every farmer keeps his dog and every free negro his two or three dogs, sheep stand a poor chance to get through the world, and yield their annual fleece with untorn throats. The increase of the dog population accounts for the scarcity of sheep.

[N. C. Planter.]

BLACKBERRY BRANDY.—The most singular substance submitted to our editorial inspection lately, is a bottle of brandy, made by Dr. Teague, of this village, of blackberries. It is a limpid, colorless liquid, of most agreeable odor and highly pungent taste. It seems to be a decidedly better brandy than that made of the peach, and there is no more difficulty in its manufacture. It may be that the blackberry will yet become one of our most valuable natural productions. In itself, it is a healthful, almost a medical berry. The cordials and jams made of it are thought worthy of a place among the various preparations of the medical dispensary; and we do not see why blackberry brandy should not also become a most useful as well as very genial drink. We trust our enterprising friend will push the matter on to success.—He might thus perhaps mark an era in the history of stimulating beverages. As at present tested, a bushel of blackberries will make a full half gallon of first rate liquor, without the foreign aid of strychnine or any other poisonous agent.—*Edgefield Advertiser.*

For the Farmer and Planter.

**Reflections--Wornout Lands--Improvement--  
Hedging--Grade Ditching, &c.**

BY CHINQUEPIN RIDGE.

There is no subject that demands the care, industrial and intelligent energies of man, more than the improvement of the soil, for upon this depends the whole machinery of well to do existence. It needs but little observation to see the downward tendencies of the major part of the cultivated lands of this once beautiful faced country. Sterility is a fast onward matter of fact, water-worn gullied, unsightly appearances, are present in the foreground of every rural picture, bringing the mind continually in relation with prospective want, from the decreased and decreasing capacity of the land for production. It is no exaggeration to say that, man has been, and is now, actively engaged in the destruction of the lands he owns, with as much indifference as if his being, end and aim was constituted for this land-destroying business. This condition of things in our own country, where almost every man has it in his power to be the owner of the soil he lives on, appears to be, indeed most certainly is, a very strange unnatural proceeding. In England, the farmer who rents, and that too at a high rate, finds it to be his interest to improve by every available means, the capacity of the soil for production. What, then, should be the ruling principle where the tiller is the owner of the soil, with no despotic power hanging over him to chill the energies and blight his hopes in the future. But where every thing is favorable, where the individual enjoys as much liberty as is consistent with political and social well-being, where government is the creature of the governed, and can impose no burdens but by consent. There is a silent majesty in the contemplation of the condition of man in the American democracies, which should prompt to improvement of every inch of ground. There is no calling of man that prigs him into the same close relation with the bounties and beauties of Nature, as the cultivation of the soil. Science has a wide field for her operations. The Naturalist has ever before him the wonderful works of creation. The Economist can here work out the problems that occupy his thoughts. The Philanthropist, too, may here exercise his principles of love to his fellow man, and the Philosopher may revel amidst the profusion of objects for contemplation.

The spirit of the age we live in, is manifestly one of money-making, the old Anglo Saxon idea that money confers a certain respectability on its possessors, has taken deep root in the minds of Young America—the soil which never *suspends payment*, has been drawn upon almost to the last particle of plant-life sustaining pabulum, and no where is this more prominent than in our own "Sunny South."

There is no doubt history is philosophy, and from the teachings of history we may see that all countries have passed through the same do-

structive operation that ours is now experiencing. Stern necessity alone may have first prompted the amelioration and improvement.

Now we think the time has arrived when reasoning, thinking man, should pause in his land-destroying march, and contemplate the effects on the future of our country.

The object of the writer is not to appear before his brethren of the plow as a teacher of farming or planting, but to call forth their enlightened attention to the improvement of the worn-out lands of our country—for this there is certain undeniable necessities.

We shall endeavor to make ourselves intelligible to all at the expense of prolixity.

The first thing to be done in the improvement of old lands, is, to prevent as far as possible, the further washing away. Experience proves that this can, in a great measure, be done by what is called hill-side ditching. Most of the bad consequences attending this in our country, arises from the fields being entirely too large. In our own observation in different countries, we come to the conclusion that small fields must be resorted to before we can expect fully to reach the desired object—more particularly in our country where the amount of five inches of water falls in one thunder shower in, sometimes, less than one hour's time. This is about the maximum of our observation, and upon this we have endeavored to act. Giving capacity to the ditchers to carry off this amount as easily as possible, this at once will show the necessity for small fields. About 25 acres is as large as any rolling land field kept under the plow, should contain. To do this, we must abandon the worm, dead-wood fence, and begin at once to beautify and strengthen our farms by live fences. Nature, in America, has been profuse in the production of plant-life for this purpose. We have in the Osage Orange (*Maclara aurantiaca*) all that we can possibly desire (if well managed) for this purpose. No hedge in Europe can at all compare with it for efficiency, durability and cheapness.

As hill-side ditching is getting to be pretty well understood, we shall pass it over for the present, and proceed to lay before the reader our plan of improving twenty-five acres of worn out land, that has grown up in pine, sassafras and persimmon. The first thing is, to cut down everything clean—all the largest wood that will not do for rails or fire wood, should be laid lengthwise in the gullies, then all the brush piled over them; the rocks should all be picked up and placed at the heads of these gullies, about eight inches below the surface. Nothing should be burnt, as the slow combustion is more in accordance with nature's plan. After all is clear, if the land is rolling, it must be judiciously graded and ditched, to prevent washing. A grade of one to two inches in ten feet is probably sufficient for most lands; short ditches are the best, and may be run into the deep gullies, as they are now prepared to stop all solid matter carried by the water, and by this means, gradually filled up. The next step is, to stake off one side of the field three hundred and fifty yards, which will form one side of a twenty-five acre field, and also gives a base line to square

the field, which will be 350 yards on all sides. The next step is, to run two rows of stakes on all sides of the field, four feet apart; plow up the stakes, and draw in the soil to form an embankment for the hedge; about eight inches deep is sufficient for these hedge-side ditches; after this is done, a trench plow must be run in the centre of the four foot space between the ditches to set the quicks in; to form the hedge, from experiments we have been making, we propose to make the hedge of fourteen hundred yards, with four thousand two hundred plants of the Osage Orange. We propose to plant two of the quicks every two feet pretty close together, the plants being over two feet high; when this done, we bend down a plant from each point and lock them together; in the spring of the year they will shoot out from every point, locking each other together, and under the law of plant life more effectually dwarfing the tree after the first year's growth, the shoots may be easily worked in so as to fill any spaces—the rest cut down to within six inches of the ground, always endeavoring to have as much base as possible. All this, if done with care, will, in five years, produce a fence sufficient to keep out even the American Hog; of this we have the proof. The hedge row must be kept clean till large enough to take care of itself. After the hedge is planted, we propose to examine the surface and see all the surface denuded places, and, as our departed friend, Capt. Byrd, says, half-sole them by bringing on them such materials as observation teaches they have lost. After this, the whole field should be trench plowed, and the subsoil broken into at the bottom of the trenches; these trenches may be three or four feet apart to suit a corn or cotton crop. The trenches are now prepared to receive all and every available matter that can in any way afford support to plant-life; then the turning shovel should be used to effectually bed up the whole field, these trenches being the centres of the beds; all the trenches must run parallel with the guard ditches. We think it within the reach of every man who works ten hands to prepare, in this manner, every year, one field of twenty-five acres, and if followed up with diligence and care, will most certainly pay for the labor, giving beauty to the landscape and improvement to the country, that a rising generation will acknowledge and bless.

We have thus attempted to give an outline of what we are attempting to do for the improvement of our own chinquepin ridge, which is about as poor as Parson Bulger used to say Job's turkey was, which was so poor it had but one feather in its tail, and that was loose.

#### How to Apply Guano to Grain.

In reply to the above question, and for the benefit of those who may be undecided in the conflict of opinion, we cheerfully give ours, and it is this: put in the Guano by the same operation that puts the wheat in; whether it be done with harrow, cultivator, plow, or drill. We are not very nervous about the loss of ammonia, and think the danger of it has been

very greatly exaggerated; and we believe the guano is most economically used in close proximity to the seed grain. We prefer having it mixed with two or three inches of the surface soil; but if the wheat is to be put in with the harrow, put in the guano with that, rather than plow it under deeply out of the way of the young roots.

The moistening the grain and rolling the seed, is perhaps a useful method when the land is capable of bringing a good crop and the guano is wanted to give it a vigorous start. The seed should be moistened with brine, and after being well drained in a basket, dried with Guano. Twelve or fifteen pounds of Guano will dry a bushel of seed, and is a sufficient dressing for the early stage of the wheat's growth. Without having made any experiments to test it fully, we think it not unlikely that this preparation of the seed and a top dressing of 80 lbs. during a rainy season in February or March, would be more economical than the usual application of 200 lbs. in the Fall.

[American Farmer.]

#### The Garden Beet.

This vegetable is highly esteemed by many, but as it matures so early in the season, in a Southern climate, it loses (if left in the ground) its nutritious qualities. When the beets have full matured, pull them on a cloudy day, or early in the morning, wring the tops from them and pack them down in dry sand. Take a barrel and put a layer of sand on the bottom, then a layer of beets, then sand, and so on until it is full; place in a cool dry place, and you may have fresh, sweet beets, for the table all the winter. Irish potatoes may be dug, and kept in the same way. Snap beans may be preserved by packing them down in salt, just as we do cucumbers, a layer of snaps then a layer of salt, then snaps and salt again, and so on until the barrel or jar is full. When the snaps are wanted for use, soak them for twenty-four hours, changing the water frequently. Okra and egg-plants may be cut in thin slices and dried in the sun; when perfectly dry pack away in paper bags; soak them a few hours before cooking them, and they will be nearly equal to fresh gathered vegetables. Butter and Lima beans may be shelled and dried in the sun until they will keep fresh all the winter. Tomatoes may be stewed, spread on thin pans and dried, then put away in paper bags for future use; for soups and stews they will do as well as fresh gathered tomatoes.—*Ex.*

**CLEANING SADDLES, ETC.**—The following is a good recipe which will give saddles and bridles a good polish, and be entirely free from all stickiness:

The whites of three eggs evaporated till the substance left resembles the common gum, dissolved in a pint of gin, and put into a common wine bottle, and filled up with water.—*Ex.*

Dried beans and peas are much more digestible if boiled in soft water.



From the Southern Cultivator.

### Surface Manuring.

**EDITOR OF THE SOUTHERN CULTIVATOR:**—In my researches into this fruitful subject, it has been my lot to meet with few notes of experience consonant with my own; very few and with one exception, very faintly uttered. The exception was the life-time experience of an old and eminent tobacco planter, "No man should bury my manure, though he paid for the privilege."

Without multiplying words, either in fact or argument, I would here endorse that venerable gentleman to the extent of saying that the safest action, the surest and most permanent, ever derived from barn yard manure, in my knowledge, has been attained by simply spreading it (be the quantity more or less) on the surface of the ground and keeping it there as long as the necessities of cultivation will permit—the longer the better. I am inclined to state the difference in favor of this method as that between "manuring" and "not manuring at all!"

I have been forced into the sorrowful conviction that of the millions of tons of cotton seed annually applied as manure in these Southern States, the ninety-ninth part of it is wasted, and counting the labor of hauling and damage from the curious action of "bottom heat," etc., far worse than wasted.

Have our farmers examined these little deposits when a sweeping rain has laid them open? Have they been gratified at the little nest of blackening hulls, or the still blacker pan-cakes of flattened dung which are the issue of their unsavory labors in the way of preparing food for plants?

I have said that I would not adduce fact or argument. It is truly difficult *not* to do so; and as my position is liable to be assailed, I will at least throw out an advanced guard in the direction of the enemy. Science has conceded (in fact it is the essence of true science to concede) that between the plainest "cause" and the most palpable "effect," there is a "realm of mystery" where her steps are stayed, where the wisest head is the most reverently bowed down. Are we ashamed of our ignorance when we ascribe to a plant the attributes of an animal, and speak of its "selecting its food," and shall we withhold from our mother earth the merit of her skill in "cooking" it; ceasing at the command of theory to place our little contributions of raw material exactly where through endless ages she has carefully deposited her own!

I believe I have stated my position clearly, but let me give one item of practice. I will select a peach tree as one has chosen to preach me a capital sermon this morning. (Having been grafted on Chickasaw plum, the course of its roots is prettily marked by little eruptions of the plum, illustrating the fact that the roots of a tree may extend far beyond the spread of its branches; and also, the folly of grafting a peach on "prunus chicasa.") Did a peach tree need dunging and digging, I

should dig first and dung secondly—not by way of mulch particularly, nor that rains would carry it down, etc., but for all this, and for the further reason that the earth is a great absorbent and its capacity for all enriching gases is hereby most signally enhanced. Ammonia attracts water—the Earth attracts both.

Yours at the end of my paper, T.  
April, 1858.

### Treating Timber to make it Durable.

"I am not aware that the following is generally known, at all events it is not practiced in this locality. In Germany it is known and practiced extensively. The matter is this:—Hard wood, such as hickory, beech, dogwood, &c., is impregnated with the liquid of stable manure, and afterwards submitted to the influence of heat, and thoroughly dried, for the purpose of imparting to it good preservative qualities and rendering it tough and solid.

\* Wood intended for axe handles, mallet, &c., is steeped in this liquid for several days, and afterwards hung up over a fire and exposed to the influence of heat arising therefrom; two or three days are sufficient to render it thoroughly dry. It is then said to possess greater toughness and solidity than when subjected to any other process.

\* The farmers of Germany use mallets made of hard wood, which is prepared as above, for the purpose of driving iron wedges to split their timber: the wedges are usually made with a head about two inches or two and a half, and the mallet suffers no indentation from percussion.

\* If the process imparts to the wood such qualities spoken of, the knowledge of the fact may be interesting and profitable. It is certainly a simple and convenient process, and some one may be disposed to test it, and compare its effects with those obtained by other methods."—*Indiana Farmer.*

**DEATH OF YOUNG TURKEYS.**—I wish to inquire through the columns of your paper what is the cause of turkeys dying in such numbers, when they are three and four weeks old—and if there is anything which will prevent this. One man in this vicinity has lost eighty in a very short time; if there is any remedy, I would like to know what it is—as I have a number to come off soon, and I do not care to loose them all, if there is any help for it.

A CONSTANT READER.

Warren, R. I., June, '58.

**REMARKS.**—Wet and cold are the causes of the death of more young poultry, than all other causes combined, we think. Staggers, pip, moping and sore throat are generally occasioned by exposure to wet and cold. We have rarely known young chicks to die prematurely that were fed regular on common coarse food, such as corn and cob meal, cracked corn or wheat, and allowed plenty of water, and kept dry and warm. Chickens or turkeys should never run in the grass when wet with dew or rain; if they do, they will almost certainly take cold and have some of the diseases common to young poultry.—*New England Farmer.*






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The Farmer and Planter.

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PENDLETON, S. C.

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Vol. IX, No. 12, : : : December, 1858.

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Personal.

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The present number closes the 9th volume of the Farmer and Planter, and will, in all probability, bring to a close our labors in a cause to which we have been so long and devotedly attached. To convince our friends of our sincere gratitude, we need not, we trust, for the thousandth time repeat our heartfelt and grateful thanks to them. We have long since duly appreciated their favors, and shall through life hold them in grateful remembrance. In our humble and unpretending editorial career, we don't know that we have displeased any honest or honorable man, if we have, we beg them to attribute it to the head, and not the heart.

In this number our subscribers expect a declaration of the course we may have determined to pursue in respect to the future of our paper, and yet we are not prepared to say *positively* what we shall do—one of two alternatives that present themselves, however, *we must embrace*, i. e., either to dispose of the whole concern, for which we have had an offer—or continue its publication and *depend* on the exertions of our present and future friends to sustain us. We have not, up to this time, received an addition to our former subscription list of 100 names of the *thousand* that it was believed could be obtained. We have put out our Prospectus for volume 10, and shall, with the present issue, send one to every post office to which our paper is sent, and we ask the favor of all Post Masters, and if they will not, of some one of our subscribers at their office, to act as our agent in getting up and forwarding names and subscriptions at as early a date as possible. To all agents who require it, we or our successor will allow a liberal per cent. on all sums forwarded for new subscribers with their names, and also for collecting and forwarding old debts. Our old subscribers yet in arrears, will greatly oblige

as by forwarding their respective amounts of indebtedness before the first of the incoming year, when the new volume will commence.

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The State Fair.

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The Third Anniversary Fair of the State Agricultural Society, as was to be, on the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th of November, *has been*; and who, of the vast multitude who attended it, not did rejoice at witnessing our triumphant success? As an initiatory, our first Fair was highly creditable; our second, in most respects, *we thought*, a little better—the true spirit was being aroused; and our third caps the climax so far. May we continue at each successive anniversary to *add a cap*, until no State in the Union shall over cap us.

So many of our State exchanges having out superseded us in their glowing accounts of the Fair, we are almost deterred from attempting even a synopsis of our “jottings” on the occasion. But having been excused by our most worthy Executive Committee from Committee service, *they*, if none others, will reasonably expect to hear something from us—even though not so full and satisfactory as by more experienced and practiced reporters.

Knowing that our old friends HUNT and JANEY would be filled to overflowing, we wrote a friend, who preceded us to procure lodgings as near the Fair Grounds as consistent with certain considerations, which he most faithfully did at the “American,” where we were pleasantly domiciliated during the week. And we will here take the occasion to remark that, although our friend DIKE had more than he contracted for, was really *overworked*, yet we have not met with a more polite and accommodating gentlemen than himself and assistants proved themselves to be during our stay with them. With such an overwhelming and unexpected number of guests, it was impossible for even double the number of servants that had been provided to attend to every one at his nod or call, but with the exercise of a little patience, all were fully satisfied with the ample provisions that had been made—though for the accommodation of a much less number. Our kind host with Mr. D. and other assistants will accept our many thanks for their marked attention during our stay at Columbia.

With some four or five hundred passengers on the Greenville & Columbia road, we arrived at the depot at about three o'clock on Monday evening, where we found omnibusses, hacks, &c. &c., enough in waiting, to carry the whole world “and the rest of mankind” to their respective quarters; but we, with some friends, preferred the “people's line,” by which we arrived at the American in due time, and there rested on our oars till

TUESDAY MORNING.—At nine o'clock we again put ourselves on the line to the Fair Grounds, where, on our arrival at the “Business Office,” at the gate, we had the pleasure to find our most worthy Secretary and Treasurer, Col. GAGE, with his polite and very efficient corps of assistants in full harness, hard at

work, and not with a disposition even to back an ear to a green intruder, but pleasant, bland and accommodating to all, as we found their course to be throughout the days of the Fair. How good and how pleasant it is to have such kind and congenial spirits to do business with, with our noble hearted President and Executive Committee at the helm of our Society, no grumbling—no complaint—every body satisfied—*gratified*—and in a good humor. Who can predict our culminating point under such favorable auspices? though high we are yet to go, higher our course is onward and upward.

After saluting our friends at the office, we threw ourself into the very core of the great Malestrom that had whirled round its thousands from every section of our State and of our adjoining sister States, and brought to its centre, through the liberal and courteous agency of the various Railroads centering at our beautiful and attractive Capitol. May the people of Columbia, by our next anniversary, be better prepared to entertain the thousands that were not so fortunate as ourself in obtaining good lodgings and good fare. We heard a liberal hearted merchant say he was entertaining several friends from the country, and that many others might do so if they choose. We are not quite certain, however, that all did so that were amply able, and might by such liberal course have greatly relieved the public and private boarding houses of the suffocating pressure that rested upon them during the week. But we are digressing, and will return to the field of our operations.

On leaving the office, being a man of the plow, the first thing that attracted our attention on the left, was the handsome and most creditable display of agricultural implements, machinery, &c., &c., which had been deposited within the "Ring." Of plows alone, we find we have jotted down for Messrs. BOYDEN & SONS, of N. C., 59 varieties; and of agricultural and horticultural implements and machinery, some 29 varieties. Reference to the award of premiums will show in the opinion of the Judges, the character of the Messrs. BOYDENS' exhibition. We have of them plows and cultivators, took premiums at our late Fair at Pendleton, on them, and are much pleased with their performance. Mr. J. H. THOMPSON, of the "Eagle Foundry and Machine Shop," Tyro, N. C., next fell into our track, with Horse-power Treshing Machinery, Straw Cutters, Corn Shellers, Plows, &c. &c., a very handsome and creditable display.

The next thing that attracted our attention, was a two or four horse-power, with the *best* Straw Cutter that we have ever tried, and we have used many, with various other implements and machinery, from the far-famed house of our friend SINCLAIR, of Baltimore, for whom we have advertised now several years, and have ordered very many implements and machines for our friends, that have never failed to please, and we stand ready to order more if desired.

Next, we found ourself in the midst of a most attractive display of Chinese Sugar Cane Mills, by our friends, the Messrs. ALEXANDER & WM. CLAZE, all

of Columbia; mills calculated to crush out from 50 to 1000 gallons per hour, with Kettles suited for all sizes. We regreted to see that our friends retain on their Kettles the old brand, which much misrepresents their capacity. It is "according to their pattern," we doubt not; but it is a Yankee plattern, we presume, and is a misrepresentation. Though under size, the Kettles are of good material, and from our own experience with them, we know they answer their intended purpose admirably. In this "Ring" we found various articles exhibited by different manufacturers, whose names we did not ascertain, of much interest to us, amongst which was the celebrated Wheat Fan, patented by the Messrs. MONTGOMERY, of Baltimore, and now made and exhibited by Messrs. EXWRIGHT & STARR, of Abbeville. We have in use one of these Fans, and have ordered many for our friends, and presume all will agree with us that they have never used a better fan or screen. There were other fans on the Ground, among which we think was the Thurber patent, which is much used in our section and highly esteemed. There were Threshing Machines and Straw Carriers exhibited here by more than one manufacturer, but the names we have not—nothing new or very striking in them.

We were pleased with the daily play of a beautiful water jet and fountain in the centre of the "Ring," exhibited, we think, by Wm. Glaze, of Columbia.

There were many other articles exhibited in this area, not near all of which can we attempt to describe or enumerate. One, however, and a very important one to the farmers and planters of our State, if it is what it is represented to be, is entitled to special notice. Rhodes' Superphosphate of Lime, with its pole and flag, was here located. Having experimented with some of the phosphates—and not greatly to our satisfaction—we much desired "light" on its superior qualities and use, but the Agent not happening to be in place when we at two or three times approached his stand, we have only been able to inform ourself through a pamphlet which was pocketed from the head of one of the barrels. In this pamphlet we find the article highly extolled, with a favorable table of analysis, and many testimonials in its favor. Several of our friends, we understand, have ordered more or less of it, and we hope and trust they will not be disappointed in its use. As the Superphosphate contains no ammonia in its composition, and as we judged from, the smell of the article exhibited an abundance of sulphuric acid, which would serve as a "fixer" of ammonia if added; we should prefer a mixture of at least one-fourth of Peruvian Guano before its application.

Having examined most articles exhibited within the Ring, all of which we have not space to remark on separately, we directed our steps towards the great Agricultural Hall, and on our right, again had the pleasure to find a fine display of plows of various patterns exhibited by Mr. G. W. Cooper, of Ga.—by Mr. Magruder, of Ga., and by sundry other manufacturers. We are induced to believe from the length and peculiar form of the moalboard of Mr. Cooper's

turning plows, that not one on the Ground would more effectually and with less power turn a stiff sward. We were anxious to see one of his plows tried by the dynamometer, but there was no suitable ground on which to test it, the land plowed on being almost a sand bank, and not suitable to test any plow in—it was the best the Committee could get, however. On the subject of judging and awarding premiums on plows without testing their performance, we have a word to say, for really the object our Executive Committee seems to have had in view in arranging for a plowing match, was not to test the plow, but only the skill of the plow-man. There are two sets of Judges on plows, or one on plows and another on the plowing match. The one judges and awards premiums from appearances only, and not from the performance of the plows exhibited; whilst the other Committee, whose business it is to conduct the plowing match, award not to the best performing plow, but to the best plow-man, with any sort of plow that may be used. Would it not be better to have but one Committee, and require it to see the operations of the plows offered for premiums in the different classes, before awarding on them. We make the suggestion for the future consideration of the Executive Committee.

Arriving at the Hall, we have an exhibition which is truly imposing, and one that an adequate description of would fill a volume of no ordinary size, and the very idea of attempting the task, causes us to pocket our book and pencil, and to fall into the train of the idle lookers on, through the remaining portion of the day. On the track we have had a fine display of Horses, from the forty dollar Marsh pony, up to highest grade to be found in our State, and perhaps in some of the adjoining States including trotters, pacers, and other gaits that we could not exactly define—with the most meddlesome coursers. What a mania we have for fast pacing horses.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—We resume our pencil, first to note the first annual meeting of the Society last evening in the Hall of the House of Representatives, when after the delivery of the President's Annual Address, some business was transacted, of which we give an account elsewhere. We much regretted the delivery of the excellent address of our most worthy President, the night previous to the time stated in the programme, by which many persons were disappointed, who desired much to hear it. The address was just such a one as not only every farmer and planter, but every true hearted South Carolinian should have heard, and such a one as they will not often hear whilst "National Democracy" is in the ascendant in our State. With great respect for other gentlemen who have been nominated for our next Governor, nothing would gratify us more than to know that the mantle had fallen on the shoulders of one so much devoted to his own State, to the whole South, and in every way so worthy as Col. A. P. CALHOUN.

NINE O'CLOCK.—And through the polite attention of our esteemed friend, Jacob Stroman, Esq., of Orangeburg, we found onrself again on the Grounds,

over which we desire to pass more rapidly than on yesterday. We are a slow traveller, however, and especially when at every turn we find so much to attract and interest us; we would, therefore, say to our readers who have set out with us, if you can't hold in your steed, take another road or go ahead.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—The deposite of all good and many indispensable articles, but how and what to begin on, unless, like some of the Committees, we "lump" all the articles belonging to the same class—This course, we think, points out our shortest road through this labyrinth of the products of the farm, the orchard, the garden, the dairy, the conservatory, &c., &c., including both the articles of necessity and luxury of the household department generally. Turning to our left, the first thing that attracts our attention, is, the fine specimen of *Sugar Cane*, raised by our friend, Col. A. M. Hunt, on his farm near Columbia. We counted on some of the canes, as many as twelve joints that seemed to be fully matured. Surely the Col. might, from such cane, make, with the cheap apparatus now in use for making Sorghum Syrup, both sugar and molasses in all quantities that he would require for his consumption, and at a much cheaper rate than the articles can be purchased. Next, we have a specimen of Sea Island Cotton in the stalk, also by Col. Hunt, and much more fully matured than we could have expected in his latitude and altitude. We found here also some most prolific varieties of upland Cotton, by Mr. J. H. Wells, of Columbia; Geo. Schley, of Augusta, (see his advertisement of seed for sale, in this number,) and by Mr. D. Dickson, of Oxford, Ga: This was the most remarkable and fully matured stalk of cotton that we have any where met with. We are not much of a planter, but bought a peck of seed to try in our latitude, at the moderate price of five dollars per bushel. Mr. Schley sells at one dollar and fifty cents. And here we find the tables running the whole length of the Hall on our left, groaning under the weight of the various offerings of corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, rice, peas, beans, potatoes, Spanish, yams and Irish; beets, mangolds, &c., &c., &c., by every body, whilst on our right, on the near side of the central table stands in files, ranks and battalions, the thousand and one vessels of various sizes and all sorts of forms, with their tempting contents of brandy peaches, cordials, wines of various sorts, preserves, pickles, bounce, catsups, jellies, crystalized fruits, candies, fruit cakes, cheese, sugar, syrup, &c., &c., &c., exhibited by every-body's wife, or by those who desire to be some good fellow's better-half. We would not give one such woman for as many sickly, sentimental novel readers, as could stand in a—*a* cow pen to see which cow gives the buttermilk.

Of Chinese Cane Sugar we observed a good specimen by Dr. J. H. Dillard, of Laurens District.—The granulation was good, but owing to an excess of coloring matter—which might easily be removed—the sugar was rather dark. Of the syrup, there were several specimens on exhibition, and how the Committee judged of their relative qualities without opening all the bottles, we can't conceive. We know

that our neighbors, Mrs. S. E. Maxwell, and Mrs. C. Randell, of our village, had each a bottle on exhibition, that was not opened. Now had these bottles contained *wine*, there is no doubt they would have been opened, and the contents sneaked up by *intruders*, even though they had *not* been opened by the Committee, as we know to be the case in more than one instance. We blamed not this over-worked gentlemanly Committee, (for we happen to know most of them,) for not tasting every thing that came before them, if they had, they would have needed a green persimon occasionally to remove former impressions. They were evidently over-tasked. Could not this tasting committee be divided and sub-divided? it has too much to do. Draw off one of the plow Committees and place them here over the exhibitions from the hog and cow, or both raw and cooked meat, lard, cheese, and butter division—here is enough for one Committee to do justice to. Then, if you please, separate the *fruits*, both green and dried—give them to another Committee. On approaching the lower end of the Hall, we find a large collection of fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, &c., by our friend, Wm. Summer, of Pomaria, and by Messrs. Westbrook & Mendenhall, of Greensboro, N. C. These latter gentlemen had also on exhibition the greatest variety of fruits we have ever witnessed, and judging from appearances *only*, we presume the fruits were good. Mr. Summer, and Mr. Fentress, just above him, made a display of sundry good looking and some of them good *tasting* kinds, including some very fine late pears. Some fine looking quinces were exhibited by R. A. Springs, Esq., of York District. Above, on the same table, we find a fine display of dried fruit by various good housewives, including Mrs. Dr. Barratt and Mrs. Dr. Marshall, of Abbeville; Mrs. Dr. Fuller, of Laurens; Mrs. Dr. Eppes, of Newberry, and Mrs. L. C. Ruff, of Pomaria. By invitation of Dr. Barratt, we put to the proof some of the pears of his good lady, and found them superior to any dried fruit we have ever tasted. Here we also found specimens of well cured bacon sides and hams, with one cooked and exhibited by Mrs. R. J. Gage, which we were extremely anxious to make a cent at, but before our time came, it had evaporated with some fine loafs of raised bread that seemed to have been placed near by, as a necessary accompaniment. Near this, we examined some barrels of superfine flour, by Dr. A. C. Fuller, and others. Meal, pumpkins, an uncommon variety; pie melons, squashes, egg fruit, potatoes, turnips, beets, and other garden vegetables—the latter by Mrs. Dr. Marshall, and fancy soap, by Mrs. Gage. Above this we ramosed the ranch through a beautiful display on either side, of evergreens, hot-house plants, &c., &c.

And now, that we are out, we will take a seat which our provident Committee has had erected for the occasion, and for a while view the movements of the different classes of horses, which are doing their prettiest before the Judges, expecting or hoping each to have a bunch of ribbon attached to his ear. There are in the different classes a large number of horses

jacks, jennets and mules on the Ground, some of the former very fine and very gay in appearance—fine movers, but as the judges are, no doubt, *better* Judges than us, we will leave it to them to fix the badge, and will turn our course to the stables, stalls and pens; but on our way let us turn in at this neat building, containing the most noisy congregation on the ground, and made up of quite a variety of the feathered tribe indeed, from the tall and stately Chinese geese down to the diminutive but proud and strutting Seabright Bantam. But we are not much of a fowl-fancier—despise a Shanghai, a Chuttagong, a Cochin China, and all other overgrown and unprofitable breeds of fowls—would rather raise a hog than a goose. Of turkeys, which stand at the head of all poultry with us, there were some fine specimens; and so of ducks, headed by the sober but despotie Museovy, the noisy Guinea Fowl, &c., &c. But for the filth and noise, this house would have constituted to many, no doubt, an interesting show of itself. But we pass on to the stables, which we find in good condition and well supplied with provender. Of the horses, jacks, jennets, mules, cattle of various breeds, hogs, sheep and goats, we cannot venture to speak separately; suffice it to say that the exhibition of all was highly creditable to the owners—much superior, we think, to the last year's show. From an examination of the list of entries which have been published in the Columbia papers, and of the list of premiums awarded, our readers will see what number and by whom entered, and what animals, in the judgment of different Committees, were considered best in the various classes. We hope all will be satisfied, if not gratified, with the awards of the Judges, which, we doubt not, are honestly and impartially made. The cattle stalls, and pens for hogs, sheep, &c., we found also in good condition and comfortable, the dry weather having favored the latter, which should, by all means, be covered, as the stalls are so situated as to become very muddy in case of much rain during the days of the Fair.—And right here we will again venture to suggest to our praiseworthy (gentlemen, don't call us a "grumbler,") and energetic Executive Committee, that there are at least two other buildings or stands much needed on the Grounds, viz.: a semicircular set of seats closed in the rear and covered, to surround in part the Committees' stand from which awards are read. As it now is, the ladies on this interesting occasion are compelled to take their stand on the open ground, exposed to an oppressive heat of the sun, as has heretofore been the case, or to the "peltings of the pitiless storm," as may be at a future time, unless some provisions are made to prevent it. This is the most important building called for, but a regularly built, open amphitheatre, covered, however, in the centre of the horse and cattle ring, would also add much to the comfort and convenience of the attendants on the Fair, especially in very warm or wet weather. And now, after witnessing the fine display of beautiful *Devons*, heavy, but well formed; *Durhams*, ugly, but fleet; *Beahmins*, *Grades* of all grades, *Natives*, which have occupied the Ring in the evening, we call off



from labor to refreshment, and on again to-morrow at nine o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING.—The Society again met last evening, elected officers for the ensuing year, received some ten or a dozen new life members, transacted some other business, and then adjourned at an early hour. See a statement of proceedings on another page. On arriving at the Fair Grounds this morning, we first examined some fine carriages and buggies of superior workmanship, from the manufactory of Messrs. Brennan & Carroll, of Columbia. One of the carriages was a superb article, which, we were informed, was made to order for Prof. Thornwell—price \$900. Other manufacturers had some very creditable articles in the same line. A buggy, made from curled hickory, especially attracted our attention. We also examined one that everybody saw, of a singular construction, the fore and hind wheels of about the same size, and yet it turned in a circle around us, of less than 12 feet in diameter, the wheel not touching the side of the body. It was made by a slave belonging to Mr. R. P. Mayra. There was also a good exhibition of well made, substantial waggons, put up, as we understood, in Richland, by Mr. H. Hamiter.

The steam being now up, we wend our way to the Mechanics' Hall, where the beautiful working engine from the foundry of Messrs. Glaze & Co., is puffing away and communicating life and action to all other machinery.—Several cotton gins here attracted our attention—one in particular, by a gentleman from Augusta, of 75 saws, with a seed crusher attached, much pleased us. Others we saw at work from parts of our own State. A corn mill by Mr. McCreight, of Winnsboro, would be a valuable acquisition to any one having gin gearing, as by that it might be run. A spoke turning machine, and also one for dressing up fellys, cutting to the proper length, boring and fitting on the spokes, which it also tenons. By the aid of these machines, the time required to make a carriage wheel would greatly astonish an old hand workman. These machines were exhibited by our old friend and very ingenious mechanic, Mr. John Sitton, Sr., of Williamston. Mr. S. surely will get a handsome premium on these labor-saving machines. And here again we find one of the Messrs. Alexander's cane mills, which pleases us better than any thing of the kind we have seen. It is a three roller horizontal mill, is run by a band, and fed through a box, just as you would feed a straw cutter. Messrs. Alexander have also on exhibition here, a circular saw mill of super-

rior workmanship. Also a great variety of beautiful smooth castings of wheels, and various other parts of machinery. One of R. Sinclair's straw cutters was here found at work. As before stated, we prefer it to all others. A beautiful model of a cotton press much interested us; by means of chains attached to the bed sill it is made to rise and meet the follow block, which is operated on by a screw of half the length that would be required without the raising of the bed. But the price of this press (\$300) will preclude its use in most places.—There was much more machinery here than we have noticed, we are quite certain, but we failed to note them down. And last, though not least in interest in the estimation of perhaps a large majority of visitors, we approached the great Centre Building, with its wide and extensive hall and capacious overhanging galleries filled to its utmost capacity with a mass of humane beings, composed of all classes and of all ages, from the hoary headed matron down to the prattling babe—the sedate and the gay—the beauty and the chivalry, and Oh, my country—what a crushing of crinoline! All there to admire or to be admired. Here the ladies make not only a grand display of themselves, but the rich products of their beautiful handiwork. We have here the products of the loom, the needle, and the pencil, with very much to attract the looker on of the inventive genius of man, delicate wax and beautiful shell and bead work, crochet and needle work, with a profusion of rich embroideries. Splendid specimens of fancy store goods are here also to see, including cutlery, quackery, &c., &c. Fine paintings of portraits, landscapes, &c., with a most creditable and interesting display of daguerotypes, ambrotypes, photographs, &c. Sewing machines were here exhibited by Messrs. Grover & Baker, and also by another firm, name lost—which attracted much attention, and greatly interested the ladies, and well they might, for they are truly a *God send* to our laboring, industrious wives and daughters. But here allow us to rein up our steel and dismount, for our descriptive powers are baffled, and a thousand things unnoticed. Those who set out with us in our ramble about the Fair Grounds, have many of them, no doubt, parted company with us long since, and yet we may say we have been delighted and much interested at every turn. Our future remarks will be general. The ring has been occupied most of the day with a grand display of fine horses and cattle, some of which, from their stately movements, seemed to be as proud as their owners, of their badges of distinction.



We attended the plowing match to-day, and had the pleasure to see some excellent plowing done by the plows of Messrs. Boyden & Son, Mr. Cooper and others. No fair test can be made on such ground—even a wooden plow would run deep and turn a mere sand bank.

FRIDAY and the last day of the Fair. In the fore part of the day, horses and cattle occupied the ring for a time with bulges displayed; after which, sales at auction took place. We noted the sales of several bulls, cows, yearlings, &c.; also a fine Merino ram of Col. Williams, at the low price of \$20. The cattle, we thought, generally sold low—one fine Durham and Devon bull especially, whose weight was said to be 1760 lbs., fat and sleek, sold for \$51, a low price for his beef alone. Maj. Griffin, of Abbeville, sold a large Durham and Devon bull for \$100—he was bought by Col. Watson, of Edgefield. A number of horses were sold—some at fair prices, others low in the estimation of those who rate horse flesh higher than we do. In the evening the scene closed with the reading of the list awards of by the Executive Committee, to the gratification of many, and disappointment through we hope not displeasure of others. It is to be regretted that the Committee have not time on this occasion to read the reports in full of the Judges, as in them many of the exhibitors are favorably spoken of—have credit for articles oftentimes but little inferior to those to whom premiums are awarded. As the business is now conducted, such exhibitors are never heard of except in their entries. Their animals or articles may, to be sure, be seen on the Ground, but the opinion of the Judges respecting them, is not known.

Upon the whole, we are pleased—gratified—at the triumphant success of our third Annual Fair, and we congratulate the friends, the movers and sustainers of this great motive power to the advancement of the paramount interests of our State. And so ends this, now the 3rd chapter of your friend, and (from present prospects) retiring, but devoted humble servant.

#### To Correspondents.

We have received from our attentive correspondent, D. WYATT AIKEN, Esq., two excellent, practical and “experimental” essays, one on corn and the other on wheat culture. We regret that we have not room for either of them in our present number—they shall appear, however, and if we are not mistaken, will much interest our readers.

A communication from our friend, “Perkins, Jr.,” headed The Late State Fair, with some very good suggestions, we think, has been received—also too late for this number—will be in time, however, in a future number.

#### Acknowledgments.

We have received the *Southern Guardian*, with a corrected list of premiums from the hands of our attentive Secretary, Col. GAGE, and greatly regret it will be impossible to get it out in our December number—our publisher having been so industrious as to fill up the first form before our return from the Fair.

THE “SOUTHERN GUARDIAN” has also been received with a request to exchange, which we will do with great pleasure. We ask nobody to exchange with us, but if our brother editors think our paper worth their attention, and will so signify, we will accommodate them, with thanks for their courtesy.

THE “SOUTHERN INVENTOR,” for November, has been received, and in it we much regret to see an obituary notice of the death of one of its associate Editors, Col. H. H. KELLOGG, of the prevailing epidemic in Charleston, on the 10th of September. We had the pleasure to meet and be with the surviving Editor, W. T. DODGE, Esq., during the Fair at Columbia, and here take the occasion to thank him for his complimentary notice of the Farmer and Planter, as we do all other exchanges, many of which never fail to salute us on our monthly appearance.

PICKENS COURIER.—Our greatly esteemed young friend, BOB, will accept our most hearty and sincere congratulations, on the happy accession to his chair editorial, *bed* and board.—We fear we can't get to sleep with you when we come to Pickens again, friend BOB, though we *may* get the *key* to the—office. May your shadow never grow less, BOB, but increase by dozens.

SOUTHERN ALMANAC.—R. L. BRYAN, Esq., of Columbia, will accept our thanks for a neat and convenient copy of the above work for 1859. We much like the plan of inserting blank leaves between the monthly callenders, as they serve to make notes on of remarkable occurrences, or seasons opposite their dates.

#### Agency in Charleston.

Our subscribers in Charleston, and at all contiguous offices, are informed that C. A.

GRAESER, Esq., of Charleston, has consented to act as our agent for the Farmer & Planter. Our accounts will shortly be sent to him, to whom we request payments to be made. He is authorized to receive payments, and to receipt for the same, both to old and new subscribers.

#### Proceedings of the State Agricultural Society.

Below will be found a condensed statement of the proceedings of the South Carolina Agricultural Society, at its Anniversary Meeting, on the 9th and 10th ult., as taken from the "South Carolinian." Though not "in the record," we take this occasion to return our thanks to our old and true friend, Dr. J. P. BARRATT, for his advocacy of some measure to sustain the only agricultural paper in the State; and must express our mortification at the apparent indifference the Society evinced to his noble appeal. We were prepared, however, for this demonstration, but not for the manner in which a respectful memorial from our friend, Dr. CROOK, of Greenville, respecting dogs and sheep, was treated by turning the whole matter into ridicule. Should some bold and fearless representative in our present Legislature, who is not afraid of the "dear people," (we do not believe any one need fear them on this question) introduce a bill for the taxing of dogs, or the protection of sheep, what will the dog advocates say? will they not refer to the proceedings of the South Carolina Agricultural Society, and as it has done, endeavor to stave the matter off by ridicule? If so, we hope and believe they will not find so smooth a road to travel as have the dog advocates of our Society.

COLUMBIA, Nov. 9th, 1858.

The State Agricultural Society of South Carolina met this evening, in the Hall of the House of Representatives. The President, upon taking the Chair, delivered a forcible and patriotic address. The Secretary then read the minutes of the last meeting, when the Society proceeded to the transaction of business.

On motion of Col. W. S. Dogan, Col. R. J. Gage was called to the Chair, and the following resolution unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks be returned to the President for his very clear, forcible and patriotic address, and that a copy of it be requested for publication.

W. S. Dogan, A. G. Summer and W. R. Robertson were appointed a committee to wait upon the President.

On motion of J. W. Harrington, it was unanimously resolved that a blank page in the journal of the Society be dedicated to the memory of the late Josiah J. Evans, a much esteemed and valuable member of this Society.

A motion was made by Maj. Geo. Seaborn,

to transfer the certificate of life-membership of the late Thos. Byrd, to Mrs. Byrd. Unanimously adopted.

A motion was made and adopted to dedicate a blank page to the memory of Capt. C. Bookter.

On motion of Col. A. G. Summer, a similar motion was made and adopted in memory of the late Col. Wade Hampton, one of the strongest props of the agricultural interests of South Carolina.

On motion of Col. W. S. Dogan, it was resolved that a committee of seven be appointed to nominate officers and an anniversary orator, for the year 1859. The following gentlemen were appointed: Col. W. S. Dogan, Henry C. Davis, W. H. D. Gaillard, Gerhard Muller, J. P. Barret, W. E. Hardy, John D. Williams.

On motion of W. R. Robertson, D. W. Aiken, of Abbeville, and R. E. Ellison of Fairfield, were elected life-members. A. G. Maybin, Dr. D. R. Sarter, of Newberry, and W. B. Johnson were also elected life-members.

COLUMBIA, Nov. 10th, 1858.

The Society met at 8 o'clock, in the Hall of the House of Representatives. Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting.

On motion of Mr. W. R. Robertson, T. W. Woodward and Col. James Duckett, of Newberry, were elected life-members. Dr. W. R. Johnston, of Marion, Julius T. Porcher, of St. John's Berkley, Thomas C. Weatherby, John B. Irby, Dr. Alexander McLeod, Laurens, D. Prince, of Marlborough, J. Stoney Porcher, of St. John's Berkley, W. C. Johnson, of Georgetown, P. L. Calhoun, of Laurens, James C. Powell, of Chesterfield, Samuel E. Maxwell, of Anderson, were elected life-members.

The following report of the Nominating Committee was made:

*President*—Col. A. P. Calhoun,

*Vice-Presidents*—Thomas E. Powe, Jacob Stroman, J. P. Barrett, George Seaborn, J. R. Sparkman, J. H. Means.

*Executive Committee*—R. Harlee, J. F. Marshall, R. J. Gage, J. A. Metts, D. W. Ray, W. R. Robertson.

*Anniversary Orator*—Jos. A. Woodward.

*Alternate*—Dr. George Douglas.

On motion of Col. A. G. Summer, the President vacated, and Dr. T. E. Powe was called to the Chair. Dr. LaBorde addressed the Society in some very pertinent remarks, and offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society are due to Andrew P. Calhoun, for the zeal, energy and ability with which he has discharged the laborious and responsible duties of the presiding office.

Col. Summer moved that the Committee rise and report progress. Whereupon the Chairman reported the adoption, unanimously, the report of the Nominating Committee. The President in a very touching manner

turned thanks for the compliment paid to him.

It was moved, by Mr. Stroman, that a page of the journal be dedicated to the memory of Dr. J. G. Guignard, of Orangeburg, a highly esteemed member of this Society.

The following resolution was offered by Gen. P. Quattlebaum.

*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee have published in pamphlet form, under the direction of the Secretary, one thousand copies of the act of incorporation, of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society, a tabular statement of its annual income since its organization, and an appended list of the officers and life-members, with the District in which they reside and the post offices of their address.

*Resolved*, That there be appended, also, a list of such members as have died, with a statement showing the year in which they died.

Moved, by G. W. Harrington, that the copies of the above pamphlet be forwarded to all the life-members by the Secretary. Adopted.

Mr. R. S. Porcher offered a resolution from Dr. A. B. Crook, on dogs and sheep. It was moved to lay it upon the table, which elicited some discussion, but was ultimately carried.

A motion of J. D. Williams, of Laurens, to change the annual Fair to the 3d Tuesday in November, after much discussion, was lost. The following resolution was offered by Dr. Geo. Douglas, and unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary and Treasurer to make a report, at each annual meeting of the Society, of the receipt and disbursements of the same.

On motion of Henry C. Davis, the Society adjourned.—*South Carolinian*.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Weeds again.

"Drags its slow length along."

I had thought the weed discussion was ended, but J. D. W., in your Oct. No., has taken it up again. He says: "It is something strange that I have been taught all my life that weeds were a pest to man and a poison to the land and crops, yet men of experience, in order for argument sake, come out and say that weeds are both a fertilizer and renovator to land and crops." It is evident that J. D. W. belongs to the old school, and does not believe in scientific farming. Aristotle taught that earth, air, water and fire, even the "elements" that compose this world and all material things, and some of our old fogies think so yet. It is in vain that modern chemistry has demonstrated that not one of these are elements. Now, science teaches that plants are feeders, that they derive their nourishment partly from the earth and partly from the air. It may be said that weeds can add nothing to the soil, but what

they take from it; this is not strictly so, for they, in their growth, probably, and in their decay, certainly cause decomposition and new combinations, thus producing available food for a succeeding growth of plants. This is what our forests do, and all plants do. There is no doubt that some of them answer the purpose better than others, but all—rag weeds and all—do it in some degree—clover and cowpea are counted among the best—but all do it. But this is not all they do: they enrich the soil by forming mould (carbonaceous matter), which, in its slow decay, furnishes a constant supply of carbonic acid—the material that makes woody fibre. It is probable, also, that during this decay, heat is evolved. And here I will follow the example of J. D. W., who gives "four or five reasons why he thinks it a good way to plant cotton rows East and West"—(I go for horizontal plowing and planting, and of course think these reasons nothing worth).

REASONS WHY WEEDS IMPROVE THE SOIL.—

1st. They shade the ground during the heat of summer, thus defending it from the decomposing rays of the sun and also from being washed by heavy rains.

2d. When turned under, they furnish carbonic acid and other available food for plants.

3d. They mellow the soil, making it permeable to air and water, and less liable to be washed.

4th. While growing, they keep down the grasses troublesome to cultivation, by preventing their forming seed, and thus making it easier to cultivate corn and cotton after stubble.

5th. They darken the color of the soil when reduced to mould, thus making it, as every one knows, warmer and more productive.

And now I would ask J. D. W. if it is worth while to haul leaves and other vegetable matter into our lots and fields, how long it will take to gather such a mass as will grow in one year in a stubble field well set with rank weeds?

It may be true that weeds make a harbor for worms. It is certainly true of the aster or iron weed; but I have not found it so bad with the rag and hog weed. They are somewhat aromatic, and most worms avoid the aromatics. At all events, *when I have turned these weeds under in the fall, I have not been much troubled with the worms*; and even if they are an objection, if I am rightly informed, the same objection hold in a greater degree with the great Northern fertilizer, red clover.

LAURENS.

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